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Iran, S. Africa form joint panel

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — The United States should stop interfering in Iran's affairs, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tuesday after clinching a cooperation deal with South Africa. The two countries established a joint diplomatic commission, brushing aside United States concern over the expanding trade relationship between Pretoria and Tehran. Mr. Velayati claimed that the U.S. attempt to isolate Iran internationally had failed. "We don't care (about the oil embargo) because this is not the first time that the U.S. has come out against our cooperating with other countries. But fortunately they have failed in their foreign policy," Mr. Velayati said. He said the joint commission agreement would give Iran access to African markets in return for its support for South Africa's social upliftment programmes. "We have discussed cooperation and participation by Iran in South Africa's Reconstruction and Development Programme," he said, adding that Iran could establish student exchange programmes and fund South African health care institutions. South Africa could also use Iran as a gateway to new markets in the new republics of the former Soviet Union and in Central Asia, he said.

Ex-senator Fawaz passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi on Tuesday announced the passing of former Senate member Sheikh Hamadeh Al Fawaz. Mr. Lawzi praised the deceased for his long dedicated service to the Kingdom.

Assad meets Sedki

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met Egyptian Prime Minister El Sedki on Tuesday to review the results of a joint committee for cooperation between the two countries, a presidential spokesman said. Jibril Kourieh said Dr. Sedki and Syrian Premier Mahmoud Al Safar presented the decisions of the committee which the two premiers chair to Mr. Assad, who expressed his "satisfaction" and urged "strengthened cooperation." The high committee for Egyptian-Syrian cooperation held its eighth session on Monday during which the oil ministers from both nations decided to create a joint oil company.

PLO-trained police officers enter Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A group of 170 Palestinian police officers arrived here late Monday from Algeria to take part in a series of joint patrols with the Israeli army, a Palestinian source said. The uniformed officers entered the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing point, on the border with Egypt. They are part of a total of 2,000 Palestinian police officers based outside the autonomous territories who are authorised to enter the latter under the 1994 Cairo agreement between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

Yediot refuses to surrender pictures

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli newspaper refused Tuesday to give police its film from a deadly clash between Jewish settlers and Palestinians in the West Bank. Kheir Al Qaisi, 22, was shot and killed Sunday in a confrontation with settlers. Police arrested a settler Monday after newspaper photographs showed him with an M-16 automatic rifle taking aim as Palestinian demonstrators ransacked a settler camp on a West Bank hilltop. Mibi Mozer, legal adviser to the Yediot Achronot daily newspaper, said the paper would not turn over its negatives to police. "The lives of photographers are hard enough these days," he told Israel Radio. "You cannot turn photographers into police sources."

Israel extends Gaza closure

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel extended a closure of the Gaza Strip for an additional 24 hours until Thursday afternoon, the army said Tuesday. The closure, imposed last Wednesday after intelligence reports warned of plans to stage attacks inside Israel from Gaza, has already been extended three times. Security sources said there were specific indications of an impending attempted attack by Palestinians they have identified in the Gaza Strip.

China frees protesters

BONN (AFP) — All the anti-nuclear protesters and journalists arrested at a demonstration in Beijing Tuesday have been freed and are in a hotel in the Chinese capital, the German foreign ministry said. The last eight who were being held — six Greenpeace activists and two cameramen — are expected to be flown to Hong Kong Wednesday, the ministry said. They were released following representations by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, the ministry said. Three of the eight are of German nationality (see page 5).

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Ekeus to visit Jordan after Iraq mission

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. official in charge of Iraqi disarmament, will go to Jordan next week, presumably to meet with Iraqi defectors, the United Nations announced on Tuesday.

U.N. spokesman Joe Sills said Mr. Ekeus was to leave New York Tuesday night for Baghdad, where he will stay for four days. "His current plans call for him to go to Amman, Jordan, after he goes to Baghdad. And I presume he is going to Amman to meet with certain people in Amman rather than for a holiday," Mr. Sills said.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Sunday Mr. Ekeus had been invited to Baghdad to receive further information, which he accused Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, who defected to Jordan last week, of withholding.

Mr. Ekeus earlier characterised Gen. Hassan as the mastermind behind Baghdad's "remarkably successful" missile programme who was at various times in charge of its chemical, biological and nuclear programmes.

Mr. Sills also said Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun had notified Mr. Ekeus that Baghdad's earlier threat to stop cooperating with U.N. officials unless the oil embargo was lifted by the end of August was no longer valid "and was not the policy of his government."

Mr. Rolf Ekeus, chief of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), should arrive in Baghdad by Thursday, diplomats said.

Gen. Hassan, former head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Organisation (MIO), announced Saturday



TRIBUTE TO DEAD: Japanese imperial navy veterans march through a gate of Yasukuni shrine to pay tribute to Japanese war dead on Tuesday. Thousands of people visited the controversial shrine to dedicated to the memory of 2.5 million Japanese killed in war (see story inside) (AFP photo)

U.S. forces start arriving for joint military exercises

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — American servicemen started arriving in Jordan on Tuesday for joint military exercises — planned before the recent defection of a senior Iraqi official to the Kingdom — and the United States reiterated its commitment to defend Jordan against what Washington sees as a possible Iraqi threat.

More than 3,000 U.S. soldiers are expected to take part in the joint exercises, codenamed "Infinite Moonlight," which, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Monday, were planned years ago as part of Jordanian-American military cooperation.

Equipment for the exercises were being unloaded at Aqaba port on Tuesday, and a U.S. defence official said in Dubai that Pentagon had decided to add warplanes to the manoeuvres. The planes will be based on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which was expected to arrive in the Eastern Mediterranean on Wednesday.

NBC News reported on Friday that President Bill Clinton, who pledged his

country's total support for Jordan against any possible Iraqi retaliation for harbouring Iraqi defectors, had ordered the Roosevelt to proceed to the Middle East in a show of strength after the defection.

Iraq has not made any threats against Jordan for granting asylum to the defectors, and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz dismissed the American suggestion as hallucination.

In Washington, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry echoed President Clinton's promise to safeguard Jordan should it face an Iraqi attack.

The United States has "a sizeable number of Tomahawks (cruise missiles) within range of Iraq," Mr. Perry said in an interview published Tuesday in the Washington Times.

"We have a powerful military force which we could bring to bear on that situation immediately if we needed to," he said.

He noted that the Roosevelt would be off the coast of Israel, putting U.S. planes within striking distance of Iraq, and had a second carrier in the Gulf.

The defections are "a very clear indication of how shaky, how unstable the regime in Iraq is," Mr. Perry said.

"My job at the moment is to be sure that we're in a position to respond, and furthermore, let the Iraqi government know we're in a position to respond," he said.

The two-week military exercises would begin Friday in the southern desert.

Nearly 4,000 Jordanian soldiers are expected to take part in the mock warfare exercises with the United States, which involve naval and land combat.

In Dubai, a Pentagon official said warplanes from the Roosevelt will join the war games.

The 10-day exercises had been planned for months but the decision to include the aircraft from the Roosevelt was taken in the last two days to give an "extra dimension" to the manoeuvres, said the official, quoted by AFP.

The U.S. soldiers are part of the Fifth Fleet, which covers the Gulf and Red Sea, while the warplanes from the Roosevelt are from the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Meeting reviews decentralisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh on Tuesday chaired a meeting with the secretaries general and directors general of ministries and government departments, attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and Minister of Administrative Development Muhiaddin Touq. Mr. Rawabdeh stressed the need for facilitating procedures and for the real delegation of authorities to officials in the field, rather than restricting them to the central government ministries or departments. Mr. Rawabdeh said much has been said about decentralisation but centralisation is still in place particularly when it comes to government procurement and supplies. The deputy prime minister said it is high time to focus on providing the best services to citizens fairly, and to give special attention to the least privileged areas. Also addressing the meeting, which is the second in a series of such meetings planned for this year, was Mr. Kabariti who briefed the secretaries general and directors general on Jordan's stand towards various regional issues, saying that this position emanates from Jordan's national interests and its pan-Arab stand.

Kabariti visits Riyadh; envoy to be named

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti headed for Riyadh on Tuesday carrying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on a visit widely seen as advancing the normalisation of Jordanian-Saudi relations after five years of strain.

On a different front, informed sources said in Amman that Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations were also expected to receive a boost soon with a meeting between Mr. Kabariti and the foreign minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

"Jordanian-Kuwaiti contacts are continuing and the two foreign ministers could meet soon," said one source. Most probably the encounter could be at a meeting of the Arab League Council of Foreign Ministers in Cairo.

Sheikh Sabah spoke with Mr. Kabariti this week, the source confirmed. "They discussed the latest developments" following the defection to Jordan of a top Iraqi official.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are the last two countries in the six-month Gulf Cooperation Council — which also groups Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — to improve relations with Jordan following the strain in ties caused by conflicting stands adopted in the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Kabariti, who is paying his second visit to Saudi Arabia in one month, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the message he was carrying dealt with bilateral relations and the "latest

developments" — an obvious reference to the recent defection of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to Jordan.

The foreign minister, who will meet with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal, and possibly be received by King Fahd, said Jordan and Saudi Arabia were seeking to restore relations to their pre-Gulf crisis level.

Mr. Kabariti said that during his July 15 visit to Saudi Arabia "both sides agreed to enhance political dialogue on scopes of building a forward-looking vision that serves the common strategy and security" of the two countries. The minister, who took office in January, underlined the importance of Saudi Arabia, in a political context, as a "strategic axle and cornerstone in the region."

Expected to be high on the agenda for the Riyadh visit is the dramatic defection of Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's minister of industries and son-in-law of President Saddam, along with his wife, brother Saddam Kamel Hassan and his wife, also a daughter of the Iraqi president.

A high-ranking Saudi official, Prince Turki Al Faisal, visited Amman this week and was received by King Hussein.

Prince Turki, a brother of Prince Saud, heads Saudi intelligence. There was no official confirmation of his visit to Jordan.

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PLO, Israel push partial agreement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian and Israeli negotiators struggled to flesh out a deal on expanding Palestinian West Bank self-rule at a Red Sea resort on Tuesday as leaders tried to persuade followers to accept agreements already reached.

"We are still negotiating the disputed issues. There is still a gap on these issues," chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Kouria, commenting on the talks held at Eilat, told Reuters.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee meanwhile approved the partial accord reached with Israel on extending self-rule across the West Bank and set out guidelines for fresh negotiations.

The Executive Committee meeting, which eight of the 18 members boycotted, was opened on Monday by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to consider the accord he negotiated with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Taba, Egypt on Friday.

"The joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration was discussed in depth by the Executive Committee which drew up ideas for Palestinian negotiators," Mr. Arafat said after Tuesday's session, adding that it was not the committee's duty to formally approve the agreement.

The committee was to publish a formal statement on the session later Tuesday, participants said. The Central Committee of Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction of the PLO was also to meet later Tuesday.

The Israeli cabinet on Sunday ratified the accord which include a four-stage redeployment of Israeli forces on

the West Bank over about two years and self-rule elections.

The two sides, however, failed to settle other issues, including water-sharing and security control over the flashpoint town of Hebron.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said there was no opposition within the meeting to the partial agreement signed at Taba. "There is nothing to object to in the common declaration," he said.

"It's a statement of points of agreement and disagreement."

Mr. Kanafani added: "The new Executive Committee guidelines should enable Palestinian negotiators to avoid further delay because it is high time we reached an agreement."

However, he said a full accord would not be possible without an Israeli military withdrawal from the town of Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live surrounded by 110,000 Palestinians.

His comments were echoed by Jawid Al Ghossein, an executive member, who said: "Hebron is a timebomb which must be defused before coming to a full agreement in the interim period."

The partial accords agreed at Taba came under fire from PLO factions opposed to the peace process, who criticised Mr. Arafat for making "new concessions" to the Israelis and decided to boycott the committee session.

The most important no-show was Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and considered the organisation's number

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Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat speaks to journalists in Tunis on Tuesday after a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee (AFP photo)

Massive ethnic cleansing underway in Banja Luka

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — A massive ethnic cleansing of Banja Luka picked up steam Tuesday with thousands of frightened Croats and Muslims abandoning their homes in the Serb-held territory and taking with them only what they can carry.

"Authorities are putting out the word to all village heads to tell all minorities in their areas to assemble and to prepare to leave," said Mark Cutts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The exiles left behind homes and most of their possessions, while Bosnian Serb authorities required the peo-

ple they were forcing into exile to pay 100 German marks as they departed, Mr. Cutts said.

"Many families have already been forcibly evicted from their houses and there are still large queues outside the UNHCR office where people are begging to leave," said Cutts.

Around 3,000 Muslims were waiting to be bussed out of Banja Luka to Croatia Tuesday, relief officials said there. They estimated that 800 minority Croats and Muslims left Monday while the UNHCR put the figures at 600, 100 of whom were Mus-

lims. The UNHCR estimated there were about 30,000-35,000 Muslims left in the Banja Luka area and up to 15,000 Croats, compared with a pre-war minority population of more than half a million.

Ron Redmond, another UNHCR spokesman, said the majority of those being forced out now were being first taken to Banja Luka from nearby villages.

"It appears that the programme works like this," Mr. Redmond said. "First the Banja Luka authorities get word out to the village heads

(Continued on page 7)

NEWS IN BRIEF

BRIEF

Attacking politicians

s have denied that the assassination attempt on King Hussein was a political attack. The king's spokesman said the attack was a criminal act. It was a security officer who was killed. The king's security forces were looking for the assassin. The king's security forces were looking for the assassin. The king's security forces were looking for the assassin.

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A husband bludgeoned his wife to death in a Moroccan town. The king's security forces were looking for the assassin. The king's security forces were looking for the assassin. The king's security forces were looking for the assassin.

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King congratulates, awards Royal Falcons

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at the Royal Court the 10 members of the Royal Falcons team who took part in aerial shows held last month in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Belgium.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday presents one of the members of the Royal Falcons air formation team with a medal at an audience in which he congratulated all 10 members of the team on their recent success in various European air shows (Petra photo)

The King, himself an experienced aviator, congratulated the men on their distinguished performance.

The Royal Falcons team competed against aviators from different parts of the world. The team won the British Air Tattoo Cup for the best free-flying and formation performances.

King Hussein presented each team member with medals. The Royal Falcons formation display team is made up of Lieutenant Colonel Mansur Jobur, Captain Omar Hweij, Captain Tayseer Dabubi, Captain Omar Bilal, First Lieutenant Qusay Zaza, and engineers Riad Ayoub, Mahmoud Awad, Hussein Hammad, Ahmad Tawfiq, and Andoni Hanania.

Since their first appearance in Qatar in Nov. 1978 the Royal Falcons have presented their precision formation demonstration to tens of millions of spectators in Europe, the Middle East, North America, Africa and the Far East.

The Royal Falcons operate as a highly specialised department of Royal Jordanian, the national carrier.

Contractors association to build Irbrid branch complex, says president

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) Tuesday awarded Al Khalij Construction Company a JD 200,000 contract to build a JCA branch building in Irbid.

JCA President Mohammad Murad told the Jordan Times that the firm will take 400 days to finish the complex which will comprise offices, a conference hall and other basic utilities, adding that the complex could be ready for occupancy in the second half of 1996.

Mr. Murad said that a permanent complex in Irbid was necessary to serve the estimated 5,000 contractors in the northern regions of Jordan to replace the present rented building. He added that contractors in the north own 150 contracting firms.

Mr. Murad said the decision was taken to construct a complex in Irbid in light of the rising number of contractors over the past few years and the expected increase this year. He said the branch complex will save the JCA a great deal of rent.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.
- FILM
- * "The Lady Vanishes" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- PLAYS
- * "The Maids" (written by Jean Genet) starring Majid Al Qasas and Najwa Kondakji at the Royal Cultural Centre, Main Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
 - * "Badranah" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre, at 7:00 p.m.
- LECTURE
- * Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "An Attempt to Analyse the Nature and Contradictions of the Palestinian National Authority," by Mr. Walid Salim at Abdul
- EXHIBITIONS
- * Oil paintings by Yassin Al Mohammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.
 - * Abstract art by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - * Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.
 - * "Exhibit of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire destroys files

Aqaba (Petra) — A fire which broke out at the Water Authority offices in Aqaba Tuesday destroyed subscribers' files and a car which was the property of the office. Local police said they were investigating the cause of the fire.

Minister, envoy discuss student acceptance

Amman (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud Tuesday discussed with Lebanese Chargé d'Affaires in Amman Gubrail Jaarah the prospect of accepting Lebanese students in Jordanian universities. The minister said that Lebanese students wishing to study in Jordan will be sent to various universities in the country. The two sides also discussed facilities for Jordanian students to get visas to continue their studies in Lebanon. Reports in the local press had said Jordanian students were finding it difficult to get visas to Lebanon.

Fuheis festival, hailed a success, faces doubtful future

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

Fuheis — The Sixth Fuheis festival, which drew to a close Monday night, was described as a great success by organisers and participants alike, but its continuation is threatened by a decision by the Ministry of Finance to tax the festival beginning this year.

President of the Organising Committee of the Sixth Fuheis Festival Yassir Akroush told the Jordan Times that the ministry's decision, for the first time, to claim a 20 per cent tax on the festival's revenues might force the Fuheis Youth Club, which organises the event, to sell its assets to pay the tax.

Club."

According to Adel Roussan from the Ministry of Youth, Jordanian law allows clubs to organise two events per year of which the revenues are not taxed by the government. The Ministry of Finance considers a single performance as one event.

"The Fuheis Youth Club organises an average of two performances a day in the context of the festival which lasts for seven days. So after the first day, performances are taxed," Mr. Roussan said.



Lebanese singer Wadi' Safi sings at the finale of the Sixth Annual Fuheis Festival Monday night (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

front of the local monastery, for a selection of drama, folklore and music presentations, including the political comedy "Hi Citizen", the Palestinian folklore group Hanuna and concerts by Jordanian, Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese singers and musicians, including the famous Wadi' Safi and Elyas Karam from Syria.

Several exhibitions accompanied the festival, displayed in local houses or in tents erected for the purpose. Exhibitions included a display of old icons and religious paraphernalia in one of the local churches, a photo exhibition on the life of former Prime Minister Wasfi Tal, an exhibition on Karak as a model Arabic city as well as a collection of children, of folklore and popular heritage items.

The narrow winding streets of Old Fuheis were filled every night with visitors strolling leisurely from one event to another, stopping on the way for ice cream or a shawarma sandwich.

1,000 youngsters, is the driving force behind the idea and the organisation of the festival.

Mr. Akroush told the Jordan Times that the idea for the festival was generated by a politically, socially and culturally interested membership, who wanted to discover more about the history and heritage of the region.

Starting, initially, with seminars and lectures for members of the club six years ago, the idea was conceived to condense events into a week-long festival open to the public.

The emphasis of the festival is on cultural erudition rather than on entertainment.

"We are essentially a cultural festival, very interested in national culture and identity and in Arab culture and identity. Even on the entertainment level, in concerts or drama, we try to present what is strictly art," said Mr. Akroush.

Mr. Akroush stressed that the festival's emphasis on regional culture should by no means be interpreted as parochism.

The festival would like, in following years, to invite participants from North Africa, Europe and beyond. "We are concerned about human culture in the general sense, but nevertheless with a special interest in Arabic

society and its special characteristics. But once the subject of Arabic culture has been addressed extensively, there is no reason not to broaden the spectrum to include other cultures of the world."

Residents of Fuheis attending the festival say they are pleased with the festival's success, demonstrated by the high rate of attendance not only by members of the local community but by visitors from other Jordanian cities and even from abroad, with the latter two estimated to make up almost 50 per cent of attendance.

The festival is funded entirely without government support, from revenues generated by the bigger events, for which tickets are sold, as well as donations by interested citizens.

The entirely voluntary participation of members of the youth club in the organisation of the festival, which significantly reduces costs, is an essential element in the festival's survival over six years, organisers said.

Mr. Akroush said he very much regrets the government's decision to tax the festival, and hopes that the government would try to make things easier rather than more difficult for this local initiative.

Amman municipality plans to build zoo

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality plans to build a zoo on the outskirts of Amman, according to the Director of the municipality's Gardens Department, Haitham Jweinat, Tuesday.

The zoo, to be built at Ghurandan Park near Um Al Kundum, on the airport road, will be spread across an area of 3,000 dunums, he said.

The project was decided on in response to public requests as well as in the

interests of the tourism industry.

Mr. Jweinat said the municipality had laid the infrastructure for the zoo, and investors and concerned firms were welcome to bid for its construction.

The municipality has also started work on a bird garden at Ras Al Ain which will be the third in the Amman area after Prince Hashem Garden in Shmeisani and the Hamzeh Garden in Marka, according to Mr. Jweinat.

He said the Amman area currently has 130 public gardens on a total area of 1,100 dunums, and work is proceeding on creating new public gardens in the coming few months on the road to the King Hussein Medical Centre, at Rashid district, in the town of Tareq near the lawyers' housing estate, in Tla' Al Ali district, and in the Hamlan and Marka areas.

The refurbishing of the public gardens in Amman

will be completed before the end of 1995, said Mr. Jweinat, adding that palm trees which were presented to the city as a gift from the Baghdad municipality have already been planted in public gardens here.

Mr. Jweinat also announced that the municipality receives tree saplings for its projects from its own nurseries at Ain Ghazal, Sweileh and Abu Nseir, which together grow one million saplings annually.



HEADS UP: Young boys unload watermelons at a local produce market in the Nouzha district of Amman (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

VTC introduces courses to help job-seekers

AMMAN (Petra) — In a bid to help job-seekers find employment in positions currently taken by non-Jordanians, the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has introduced training courses at its centres for the coming year designed to fill the needs of the labour market in Jordan, according to VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah.

The VTC has this month started registering names of trainees for the 40 training programmes in a variety of fields in the coming year, said Mr. Nasrallah.

A total of 15,800 trainees

will be accepted for the short, medium and regular training courses ranging from one to two years, he added.

He said courses are offered in construction and manufacturing, and most of the trainers are employed in those sectors.

Mr. Nasrallah said that the corporation has just finished the construction of a hotel training centre in Aqaba and a small 15-room hotel for training purposes.

The new training facility will be the second after the Amman Hotel Training Centre in Amman and will

provide trained personnel to the hotels operating in the port city, added Mr. Nasrallah.

He said the VTC has for the first time introduced a programme for training supervisors in occupational safety matters and the trained supervisors will take a year to finish this course at the centre in Marka which entails doing practical work at several local factories and companies.

Referring to development of VTC facilities, Mr. Nasrallah said that the corporation has concluded an agreement with the Swiss govern-

ment to help modernise the equipment at the VTC's centres especially the electrical, electronic and mechanical equipment as well as those used in carpentry at the total cost of JD 1 million.

He said the VTC is studying proposals to establish a training centre on chemical industries to be financed by a French government grant and is making preliminary arrangements for the establishment of metal industrial institute at Sahab Industrial City near Amman at the cost of \$4 million with assistance and training from Japan.

Japanese prime minister apologises for war atrocities

TOKYO (R) — In a landmark statement, Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama on Tuesday made Japan's first clear cut apology for its World War II actions but he firmly ruled out reopening discussions on compensation for victims.

Mr. Murayama delivered the historic apology in somber tones on national television, reading a statement that had the weight of the Japanese government behind it because the wording was cleared by all three partners in his ruling coalition.

Speaking on the 50th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II, Mr. Murayama did not hold back in admitting wrongdoing and in apologising for it.

"During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensnare the Japanese people in a fateful crisis and through its colonial rule and aggression caused tremendous damage and suffering to people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations," he said.

"In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of

humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology," Mr. Murayama said.

Mr. Murayama's statement made him the first prime minister to use the sensitive word "apology," instead of words like "remorse" and "regret," in a public speech about the war.

But at a later press conference, Mr. Murayama dashed hopes of former allied prisoners of war that the change of mood might also lead to discussions about compensation for victims.

"All individual compensation has been dealt with in the 1952 San Francisco peace treaty and other bilateral treaties," he said. "We have faithfully met terms of those agreements."

Former prisoners of war from Britain, Australia, the United States and other allied nations have stepped up demands for compensation this anniversary year. Tokyo courts are considering several suits filed by POW groups in which they demand individual compensation of about \$22,000 each.

Many former "comfort women" — women from

Korea, China, the Philippines and the Netherlands forced to serve at battlefield brothels — are also demanding compensation.

There appeared no immediate groundswell of anger against Mr. Murayama from rightwing groups. His statement coincided with a newspaper poll which said more than 50 per cent of Japanese do not believe enough has been done to atone for the past.

But in a sign of the divisions that still exist in Japanese society, 10 of the prime minister's 20-man cabinet attended unofficial ceremonies at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, site of the country's biggest shrine for war dead.

The dead include class A war criminals like executed wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo.

"Remorse and apology is just what the government says," said Tadashi Yamada, 75, who prayed at the shrine. "It's a big mistake to think this is what Japanese people think."

The apology followed a parliamentary resolution in July which only expressed "deep reflection" about Japan's history of aggression

and brutal colonial rule.

The focus of Tuesday's commemorative services had been on whether the country's first socialist prime minister would be bolder to utter the word "apology" in a public speech.

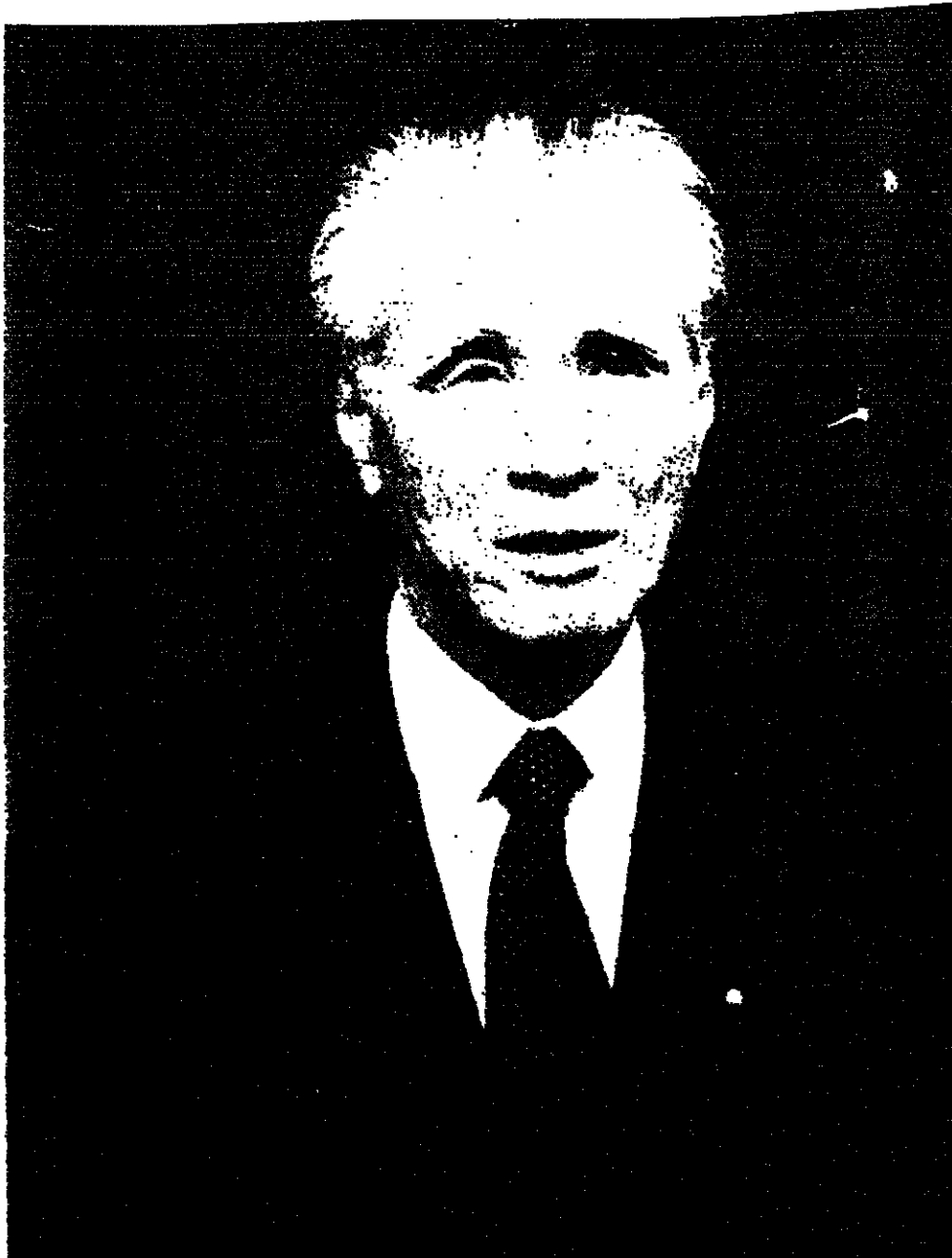
Ministers at a cabinet meeting where the wording of the statement was cleared only hours before its delivery, said the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), senior partner in the coalition, did not fight the use of the word.

The LDP, in power almost exclusively since World War II, had forced Mr. Murayama to tone down the parliamentary resolution.

Economic Planning Minister Isamu Miyazaki told a news conference Mr. Murayama read the statement and asked cabinet members if there were any objections to the wording.

"Nobody objected to the prime minister's wording," Mr. Miyazaki said.

Mr. Murayama reverted to more muted language in a later speech to relatives of Japan's three million war dead, using the traditional terms "deep reflection and sincere condolences."



Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama makes his speech on the 50th anniversary of the World War II end Tuesday at his official residence (AFP photo)

Not all are happy in Asia with Japanese apology

HONG KONG (R) — Asian governments welcomed Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's apology on Tuesday for World War II actions, but veterans and victims of Japan's aggression demanded more to ease their painful memories.

Mr. Murayama's apology, issued on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, followed a parliamentary resolution in July that expressed only "deep reflection."

That gesture had disappointed Asian countries, some of which suffered years of painful Japanese colonial rule or brutal aggression by Japan's imperial army during the war.

"I think this must be hailed by all sides from all over the world," Philippines President Fidel Ramos said of Mr. Murayama's apology.

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said Mr. Murayama's apology was comprehensive and would satisfy most of the wartime opponents of Japan.

But South Korea, which said it would wait and see what Japan did after Mr. Murayama issued the apology, urged Japan to go further in accounting for its wartime actions.

"We want the Japanese government to make serious

efforts to thoroughly reveal the truth of history and have a proper understanding of history," the Seoul foreign ministry said.

Mr. Murayama, who made Japan's first unambiguous apology for its aggression in a landmark statement, said this did not mean Tokyo would meet demands for compensation.

But for many victims, that remains a key issue.

Former World War II enemies attending ceremonies in Thailand at the site of the infamous Thai-Burma "death railway" dismissed the apology as an empty gesture unless Japan compensated victims of its aggression.

"If he doesn't say anything about compensation it's nothing, it's lip service. I don't believe it," said former Japanese soldier Nagase Takashi, 77.

Mr. Takashi, who served as an interpreter for Japanese forces overseeing the allied prisoners of war and Asian slave labourers who built the railway, said all of those who suffered under Japanese rule should be compensated.

Australian veteran David Barrett, 73, of Tasmania said: "A governmental apology without compensation is only a token. I don't need money but there are a lot of

widows whose husbands died prematurely who do."

Hong Kong people welcomed the apology but said action, not only words, were needed to heal the wounds.

"That's a good start. The fact that he said it is good," said legislator Emily Lau. "I think people will want to pursue (compensation). I certainly hope the Japanese government will keep an open mind on this and not say that it is out of the question."

Mr. Murayama said in a speech that all compensation claims had been settled by the San Francisco peace treaty and other bilateral treaties.

Tsui Szeman, owner of the Hong Kong news weekly Mirror, said: "For China, Japan's war with China was the longest and Asia suffered the most casualties, much higher than Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

Australia's veterans, meanwhile, called on Japanese Emperor Akihito to apologise for his nation's actions.

"This is a good step, but I would still want the imperial household to support it and indeed promote an apology on behalf of the nation," said the president of the Australian Returned Services League, William "Digger" James.

Britons unhappy with apology

LONDON (R) — British veterans accused Japan of fudging an apology for its wartime actions on Tuesday and some said they might call for a boycott of Japanese goods.

Groups representing the 16,000 British survivors of Japanese war camps said they had been hoping for an unequivocal apology on behalf of the entire Japanese nation to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Speaking to Tokyo, Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama said that to forego any mistakes by Japan in the future: "I would like to express anew my deep reflection and sincere apologies."

Although one survivor called the statement "epoch making," others saw it as an entirely personal expression of remorse.

"There was the ideal opportunity for the Japanese to wipe the slate clean by unequivocally apologising and agreeing to compensate the people they treated so barbarically in the Second World War," said Arthur Titherington, secretary of the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors Association.

Seoul students and police clash as Koreans celebrate liberation

SEOUL (AFP) — Thousands of students calling for early unification of the two Koreas battled with police here Tuesday, marking the 50th anniversary of liberation from Japanese rule.

In the worst street violence here this year, some 10,000 students, many wielding metal pipes, battled with police in riot police in several areas of the northern suburbs, while trying to march to the border for a banned rally with North Koreans.

Some 60 riot police were injured and 20 of them were hospitalised after the clashes, the national Yonhap News Agency said.

At an intersection leading to the road to the truce village of Panmunjom, a contingent of 200 police troops were overpowered, disarmed and beaten by the students, witnesses said.

The incidents caused snarling traffic jams in the area, leaving vacationers stuck sweltering in their cars and suffering from the tear gas.

Shouting "national unification," the demonstrators repeatedly charged towards a blockade formed by some 3,000 police who fired volleys

of tear gas from black armoured vehicles, they said. The confrontation lasted for five hours as the students battled their way through police lines and proceeded some three kilometres before abandoning their march.

They later regrouped at downtown Sungkyunkwan University to continue protests. Police said 17,000 riot police were mobilised throughout the city.

The violence coincided with a massive ceremony presided over by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam in central Seoul to commemorate the end of Japan's occupation half a century ago.

The official ceremony was highlighted by the beginning of the demolition of a building symbolic of Japanese colonial rule.

An 11-tonne chunk of the spire on the green dome of the old Japanese colonial headquarters was lowered by a giant crane to the beat of drums, the explosion of firecrackers and applause.

Five jet fighters, trailing violet and pink smoke, were allowed for the first time since the end of the 1950-53

Korean War to fly over this capital during the event, attended by 50,000 people and watched by thousands more on television.

World's longest serving "prisoner of conscience" freed

In another development, South Korea on Tuesday freed Kim Sun-Myung, the man Amnesty International calls the world's longest serving prisoner of conscience, in an amnesty to mark Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

Mr. Kim, 71, who had spent 44 years behind bars since being captured in 1951 during the Korean War, walked free from the prison in the suburbs of this central provincial city, 150 kilometres south of Seoul.

The feeble and aged Kim was met by a group of relatives of jailed students and leftists outside the prison, and had to be supported by others as he posed for photographers. At one point, he bled from the nose.

Few had known what he looked like and no photographs of him had been available so far.

Human milk may be cancer fighter

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Human milk might help fight cancer, according to Swedish laboratory tests published Tuesday. Researchers have found an ingredient called monomeric α -lactalbumin, or MAL, that caused cancer cells to die in test tubes. The results were made public in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Tuesday. At Lund University in Lund, Sweden, and at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, researchers said they were studying the effects of milk on bacteria associated with lung cancer when they made the discovery of its effect on the cancer itself. "We were surprised to discover that the milk killed the (lung cancer) cells," the authors of the report said. In one experiment, MAL killed 98 per cent of human lung cancer cells, while leaving normal cells unscathed. The researchers said the milk component triggers apoptosis, a process where by cancerous cells kill themselves. The ingredient also helped destroy test tube cells of bladder, kidney and intestinal cancer. The tests included only laboratory cells grown for experiments. No living animals were used in the tests.

Sri Lanka hospital seeks snake-bite victims

COLOMBO (R) — A hospital in the ancient Sri Lankan capital of Anuradhapura is desperately seeking victims of the deadly russell's viper. Doctors at Anuradhapura Hospital have come up with their own anti-venom, which is proving a success with victims of the russell's viper, one of the country's 83 species of snake. Until now they had been using a less-effective Indian concoction designed to treat victims of the Indian russell's viper. But for the anti-venom to win government approval, the doctors need to treat at least 75 victims to complete a trial before the end of October, said Dr. Ranee Ariyaratnam. So far they have treated only 12, albeit successfully. "We are desperately in need of victims of the Sri Lankan russell's viper," she told Reuters. "The victims don't have to be Sri Lankan. Anyone is welcome."

Heat fells U.S. woman who broke all-male Citadel

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (R) — Shannon Faulkner, who fought a bitter legal battle to become the first woman admitted to an elite all-male U.S. military school, missed the official swearing-in ceremonies Monday after succumbing to extreme heat. While temperatures exceeding 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius) forced Ms. Faulkner into the infirmary during the ceremony, she is still a cadet at the school known as the Citadel. "It's a formality. They can do it later," Citadel spokesman Terry Leedom said of the ceremony. Ms. Faulkner's lengthy battle to join the Citadel has been closely followed by the U.S. media, taken up by talk shows and discussed as an issue of discrimination versus tradition. Ms. Faulkner was not the only cadet to miss the oath at the 152-year-old college on Monday. Officials later said three male candidates also were not present.

Archbishop resigns over sexual abuse charges

VIENNA (AFP) — The archbishop of Vienna, accused of sexually abusing young seminarians 20 years ago, announced his resignation Tuesday. Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer, 75, made the announcement during mass and said he would step down Sept. 14. Groer said his resignation had been accepted by Pope John Paul II. The allegations against Groer by Josef Hartmann, a 37-year-old former seminarian student, plunged into its worst crisis since World War II. Hartmann said Groer sexually abused him for four years. After Hartmann made his allegations in a magazine interview, other former students of Groer came forward with similar charges.

Panamanian unions lift strike

PANAMA CITY (AFP) — Panamanian union leaders called off a strike Monday from President Ernesto Perez signed a law revamping the labour code, which ignited 10 days of sometimes violent protests that claimed four lives.

Fearing riots, more than 300 riot police surrounded the Panamanian presidential palace as Mr. Perez signed the law, which makes it easier for employers to lay off workers, lower their wages in times of crisis.

But the decision by 49 unions that endorsed the strike by some 20,000 workers, most of them from the construction and banana industries, defused a potentially violent showdown.

Earlier, hundreds of workers had blocked downtown traffic to protest the reform of the legal code, which would have reduced by half pay for workers unjustifiably dismissed.

Labour leader Gabriel Castillo said the unions would challenge the law's constitutionality before the Supreme Court but that strikers would return to work Tuesday.

"We believe the time has come to lift the strike and pass to the struggle to resist the execution of the changes imposed," said Mr. Castillo.

The government contends the reforms, which were approved by the legislature Saturday, are needed to revive the economy, attract

foreign investment and lower unemployment, now at 13.6 per cent.

But the construction workers say the measures would leave them defenceless and will not help create jobs.

Since the strike began Aug. 4, four people have been killed, dozens have been injured and more than 400 have been detained in clashes with police.

Opposition lawmaker Arturo Villarino said the amendments "for Perez are a trophy he will be delighted to show international financial institutions."

Protests began to gather steam Monday after a relatively calm weekend despite Saturday's hot-button decision by lawmakers.

and defence minister were being detained, but said he did not know who was masterminding the overthrow.

"This comes as a big surprise," Mr. Vaccara said on Portuguese TSF Radio. "We have not been contacted."

The coup comes less than one year after Trovoada called democratic elections in order to break a parliamentary deadlock in the small, two-island nation some 285 kilometres west of Gabon.

Mr. Trovoada, a one-time prisoner and political exile of the former ruling Socialist Party, rose to the presidency in the country's first multi-party elections in 1991.

India blames Pakistan for killing of Western hostage in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Tuesday blamed Pakistan for the killing of a Norwegian tourist in Kashmir and demanded that it stop exporting terrorism to India's territory.

In a 45-minute speech marking India's 48th independence day, Mr. Rao offered to discuss peace with Pakistan, "provided it stops supplying arms and training to Kashmiri militants and raising the Kashmir issue at international fora."

Mr. Rao's nationally televised speech from the ramparts of the 18th century Red Fort left little room for easing tensions with Pakistan, with which it has fought three wars since Britain ended its rule over the subcontinent in 1947.

As he prepared to speak in New Delhi, 10 people were injured by a bomb that exploded in a hotel room in Jammu, the Hindu-dominated winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir. Eight were Hindu pilgrims.

Police said the suspected bomber, who left the room 90 minutes before the explosion, was not a Kashmiri Muslim, but they were working on the theory that he may have come from Pakistan to disrupt India's independence celebrations.

"What happened in Kashmir the other day is the result of Pakistan's interference,"

said the prime minister, referring to the slaying of the Norwegian hostage by Kashmiri separatists.

The kidnappers have threatened to kill four other Western hostages they are still holding unless India frees 15 jailed guerrillas.

Pakistan denies India's charge of arming and training Kashmiri militants. On Monday, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto condemned the killing of the Norwegian and said Pakistan condemns all forms of terrorism.

In Islamabad, Foreign Minister Sardar Asef Ali denied accusations that Pakistan masterminded the kidnapping of Westerners by Kashmiri separatists.

"The government of Pakistan has time and again condemned kidnappings, taking of hostages and other acts of terrorism, whatever the circumstances," Mr. Asef Ali said in a prepared statement.

He called last Saturday's killing of a Norwegian hostage "a heinous act of murder of an innocent tourist."

Mr. Rao reiterated that "Kashmir is an integral part of India." He said there would be no compromise on the status of Jammu-Kashmir state, which Pakistan also claims as its own.

Indian-controlled Kashmir erupted into a full-scale rebellion in 1989, in which more than 12,000 people have been killed. India con-

trols two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the remaining one-third.

Mr. Rao described the insurgency in Jammu-Kashmir, predominantly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state, as "a conflict created by Pakistan."

Western experts have warned that a new war between India and Pakistan could involve atomic weapons.

Separatist group extends deadline

The Muslim separatist group which threatened to kill four Western hostages if 15 jailed Muslim militants were not freed by Tuesday has extended the deadline by 24 hours, official sources said here.

Al Faran, which killed the Norwegian hostage over the weekend and warned that the other four Westerners would die if its demand was not met, agreed to extend the deadline from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning, the sources said.

Hindus shift prayer site

Meanwhile, in Mathura, Indian paramilitary troops were turning this northern holy town into a fortress on Tuesday despite assurances by Hindu extremists that they will not force a showdown over a 17th century mosque.

Army commandos and

Rapid Action Force troops were sealing off Mathura to prevent a recurrence of the December 1992 razing of another mosque in Uttar Pradesh state which sparked Hindu-Muslim clashes which left 2,000 people dead.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council) had threatened to hold a religious ceremony at a Hindu temple adjoining the Mathura mosque on Friday in defiance of a ban imposed by the state authorities.

But the VHP, which was at the forefront of the campaign which led to the razing of the 16th century Babri mosque in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya, backed down on Monday and said it was not looking for a confrontation.

Officials in Mathura, some 140 kilometres south of New Delhi, said they were taking precautions, however, in case the Hindu fundamentalists staked a claim on the mosque.

The security forces have erected barricades around the site where the Hindu temple and mosque are located side by side and deployed heavily-armed commandos to prevent possible attacks.

"We are taking no chances," said a police officer, adding that a planned rally by Muslim students on Friday had also been banned.

Sao Tome president seized in coup

SAO TOME, Sao Tome and Principe (AP) — Rebel military officers stormed the presidential palace of this western African island nation before dawn Tuesday and seized President Miguel Trovoada.

Mr. Trovoada and defence minister Alberto Paulino were being held prisoner in the country's main military barracks, loyalist soldiers told the Associated Press.

The rebel officers have seized control of state radio and the airport and have positioned armoured vehicles on highways leading to the capital. Soldiers with assault rifles were patrolling the main streets of town.

It was not yet known who

was leading the coup. Rebel officer Lt. Quintes Almeida appeared on national TV, asking civilians to stay at home and remain calm, and warning that looters could be shot.

Mr. Almeida said he represented "the new military generation," which is believed to be unhappy with the minor role it has been relegated since Sao Tome relinquished one-party rule in 1991.

The streets of Sao Tome were deserted early Tuesday morning as people huddled at home waiting for news.

Rui Vaccara, spokesman for the Portuguese embassy, confirmed that the president

and defence minister were being detained, but said he did not know who was masterminding the overthrow.

"This comes as a big surprise," Mr. Vaccara said on Portuguese TSF Radio. "We have not been contacted."

The coup comes less than one year after Trovoada called democratic elections in order to break a parliamentary deadlock in the small, two-island nation some 285 kilometres west of Gabon.

Mr. Trovoada, a one-time prisoner and political exile of the former ruling Socialist Party, rose to the presidency in the country's first multi-party elections in 1991.



A plainclothesman rips an anti-Banjing's Tian

Pr for g

HONG KONG (R) — Pro-Banjing forces to make and a month's Hong Kong elections a record number of dates for the last held under B analysts said.

Nominations Sept. 17 also closed and need 138 hopefuls to Hong Kong pro-Banjing union of appointed bodies.

They are Beijing's new the Legislature when it takes Keng on July 1. Governor, he pushed through of political reform its blessing.

Pro-Banjing fared poorly in elections as voters support returned who were with up to China's death of the massacre.

But as well Hong Kong's overtake the Tiananmen pro-Banjing well emerge month's solid presence majority of the

Check

MOSCOW (AP) — rebels reported begin laying weapons on Wednesday hours after Russian Boris Yeltsin their extraordinary "me they disarmed."

The command Russian military Chechenya. L General Anatoly told the ITAR-agency Tuesday would begin their weapons on Chechenya on V.

Mr. Romanov say where the take place, and further details, agency said.

However, who the Chechen lay down their

Attac

BUJUMBURA — Assaults armed made and mached people in the ce dian province of radio reported T ing fears of ren bloodletting in ti can country.

The state radi ported that the place Monday specify the e attackers or vic

Two other peo led at Bugenye province by u attackers on S radio said.

The attacks a series of m Burundi, where mounting of fu war on the sca neighbouring year.

On Friday, a

Mr. Shmidsky and numerous deputies went down on to the floor to try to persuade Mr. Ba-Gad to leave. After the angry 10-minute scene, he finally agreed to be escorted away.

Research institute: Asian states to maintain tight monetary policies

maintain a tight monetary policy in coming months to fight these inflationary pressures," Nomura said.

"Thailand is under similarly strong inflationary pressures," the institute added. "Because the baht is pegged to a basket of currencies in which the U.S. dollar has the largest weighting, the depreciation of the dollar has created an inflationary environment."

Nomura also indicated that the United States' appreciation of the Singapore dollar and the Malaysian ringgit might have reached their limits.

In Singapore, foreign direct investment is no longer soaring and exports are growing at a slower pace because of the economic slowdown in the United States in addition to the stronger local currency.

The demand for gold booms

cession in .50 years.

"The times signal gold!" says an advertisement by commodity broker Ace Koeki Co. Ltd. in the Nihon Keizai newspaper, a leading business daily. "We propose crisis management by making use of gold."

Another advertisement by rival broker Fujichu Co. Ltd. makes even bigger promises: "Gold will save you," it says.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson
Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Before lunch today, concentrate on how best to gain your aims. After lunch, eliminate stumbling blocks in the path of progress.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get busy this morning and win the day.

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ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Before lunch today, concentrate on how best to gain your zins. After lunch, eliminate stumbling blocks in the path of progress.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get busy this morning and ease this afternoon.

LEMONS: (May 21 to June 21) Try to improve your credit rating and prestige today and don't be forceful in trying to gain a personal aim.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some clever ideas for later tonight, so make a note of them before getting into hard career activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be positive in handling business affairs this morning, and get good results, but later today use tact towards your being a success.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Come to a better agreement with associates this morning, but later today, don't do any career activities, they expect which are unreasonable.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Find better ways of getting your regular tasks completed since later today a new contact could cause a delay. Be prepared for obstacles.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get amusements arranged this morning and then handle business matters which require much thought and time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to please loved ones more this morning and later be careful with communications of all kind.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can accomplish a good deal in the outside world this morning, but avoid disagreements at home this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Financial affairs can go very well for you this morning, but after lunch, be careful to re-check whatever you do.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early this morning, plan how to gain your personal aims quickly, but later today use care in financial dealings to avoid a loss.

Birthstone of August: Red-

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arab World

Government plans to give more families free food subsidies list in '96

■ IT HAS BEEN the incomes of both band and the wife taken into consideration next year while determining eligibility to food subsidies.

Unlike the present system excluding a family receiving earnings from a band alone earns ID 500 a month, the provisions will cover those where both spouses' combined income in a year is ID 500. Such a measure will reduce the number of cards to be distributed from about 300,000 to 100,000 and will save treasury some ID 100 million annually.

According to a report issued by the Supply Prices Committee of the lower House of Parliament, there were 2,094,762 families benefiting from the supply cards issued in September 1994, whereas in December 1994, the number of Jordanian families was 1,906,000 and the number of families at risk of assuming an average of six per family. According to the report, 200,000 families will not represent more than 10 per cent of the total families, the committee concluded that the number of families who are supply coupons will not be more than 400,000 families.

The committee's report pointed out that total subsidies, including food subsidies, cost the treasury over ID 1,000 million between 1994 and 1995, with the highest going to the bread subsidies, which, on the average, accounted for more than ID 400 million annually.

The committee noted that the said period, consumer prices of subsidised products have remained stable or limited increases in prices of bread, rice and oil in early 1995. Prices continued to rise, especially wheat increasing by 30 per cent, from \$119 per tonne to \$234 per tonne, the price of sugar going up by 30 per cent from \$340 per tonne to \$442 per tonne and the price of rice rising by 58 per cent from \$280 per tonne to \$442 per tonne. Milk prices rose also by 52 per cent, from \$23 a tonne to \$35, reflecting a cost price of ID 1,000 per tonne of milk delivered at the houses of the Ministry of Agriculture to a \$30 per tonne in international handling costs. Similarly, the cost prices of wheat, sugar and rice have increased by 30, 30 and 58 per cent, respectively.

Additionally, the committee found that between 1988 and 1994 produce prices increased by 90 per cent, whereas the increase in the average income of the gross domestic product at the market price was only 20 per cent during the same period.

As such the report recommended the following:

- Reducing the number of beneficiaries from food subsidies.
- Reconsidering the subsidies for sugar, rice and oil.
- Raising salaries to all employees in line with high cost of living.
- Considering the poverty level to ensure adequate help for the poor.
- Expanding the services of the civil service corporation.
- Reducing the number of employees in the public sector and encouraging private sector markets.
- Continuing subsidising food to curb excessive consumption.
- Encouraging the private sector periodically, to provide quality controls and standards.
- + AI Duster

U.S. business interest in Amman economic summit is high

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Approximately 150 American businessmen are expected to attend the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in Amman in late October as part of an all-out U.S. government effort to demonstrate that "peace pays."

Unlike last year's huge Casablanca summit, which a State Department official describes as being remembered primarily as a "magnificent political event," the upcoming Amman summit will be a smaller affair and will focus on the private sector.

David Ruth, senior coordinator for the Business Affairs Office at the State Department, said "we need to break the taboo (in Amman) against regional business cooperation and deals" in the same manner as when Israeli and Arab businessmen huddled for the first time in Casablanca.

He told the National U.S.-Arab Chambers of Commerce at meetings last week in San Francisco and Houston: "We hope at the Amman summit to do just that."

Cherie Loustaunau, deputy director of the Near East Office at the Department of Commerce, was more blunt.

She said in an interview that the Casablanca and Amman conferences are "viewed as the economic part of the (Middle East) peace process, and if the (Amman summit) does not take hold... the political peace is not going to take hold."

She stressed that the U.S. government is "very committed to making the Amman summit a success."

The stakes are high for the Clinton administration and

consequently it has marshaled several agencies to woo American businesses to Amman, stressing that this multinational conference will be "more oriented toward the private sector's contributions and benefits."

Or, as David Ruth promises, it would be "more beneficial to business leaders than was Casablanca."

The Near East Office at the Department of Commerce is well aware of the American business community's disappointment with the Moroccan conference, and is this year fashioning its plans to meet the businessmen's concerns.

Cherie Loustaunau reported in an interview that she has already furnished the Geneva-based summit organizers, the World Economic Forum, with a list of 5,000 American firms which may be interested in participating. Only 150 firms can be accommodated, however.

As part of the government's outreach programme to rally the American business community behind the Amman parley, Secretary of State Warren Christopher hosted last June a breakfast meeting with American chief executive officers and is reportedly planning another next month with Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown participating. Brown will accompany Christopher to Amman.

In order to demonstrate U.S. seriousness about the goals of the summit, the American business representatives will be considered a part of the U.S. official delegation, staying at the same hotel as the senior U.S. government officials.

The summit itself will include workshops, project briefings, and roundtables at a "business centre" at the hotel so the American businessmen can pursue opportunities and follow up on deals.

Earlier this month, the Near East Office sponsored a telecommunications and information technology briefing for American businesses in which several Arab embassies participated.

Some of the projects that have been identified so far include the construction of several highways in Jordan, an olive oil bottling plant in the West Bank, the creation of a ship tracking system for the Strait of Gibraltar, construction of a metro system in Cairo patterned after similar systems in Uman, curbside health projects in Omani, a turnkey proposal for a cement plant in Saudi Arabia, and the construction of a cement producing facility in Yemen.

Corey D. Wright, an international trade specialist at the Department of Commerce, stressed during an interview that American businessmen are not after "ideas, but taking these one step further. They are looking for a deal."

He continued, "Anyone coming to the Summit with a good business plan for a project is likely to get something accomplished — and an investor."

Although it is premature to try to identify the projects which will be considered at the match-making sessions in the Jordanian capital, it is anticipated that a few flagship projects involving government infrastructure

enders, such as the airport and tourist facilities in the Aqaba-Eilat area, are likely candidates. The summit will

highlight, in part, large regional projects and investments, small and medium-sized enterprises to serve as catalysts for economic growth, U.S. officials explained. A thematic session will be devoted to the role of these small- and medium-sized enterprises in promoting growth and employment opportunities in the region, with emphasis on incentives

and financing mechanisms that are available to them.

The other plenary sessions of the conference will cover three additional themes: trade and industry, infrastructure, and the economic environment.

Mr. Ruth told the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce that long-term peace in the Middle East "depends on providing concrete benefits

to the people of the region, benefits possible only through increased trade, entrepreneurial energy, and industrial development."

He added, "we are pursuing a broad range of economic initiatives, with emphasis on private-public partnership to complement the political aspects of the peace process and to demonstrate, if I may be blunt, that peace pays."

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Government plans to drop more families from food subsidy list in '96

IT HAS BEEN LEARNED that the incomes of both the husband and the wife will be taken into consideration from next year while determining eligibility to food subsidy.

Unlike the present system of excluding a family from receiving coupons if the husband alone earns more than JD 500 a month, the exclusions will cover families where both spouses earn a combined income in excess of JD 500. Such a measure will reduce the number of supply cards to be distributed next year from about 600,000 to 500,000 and will save the treasury some JD 6 million annually.

According to a report issued by the Supply and Prices Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, there were 4,095,762 persons benefitting from 715,559 supply cards issued until Sept. 20, 1994; whereas the national census, conducted in December 1994, has put the number of Jordanians at 3,806,000 and the number of families at 634,400, on assuming an average number of six per family. And, by excluding those who earn above JD 6,000 a year and who represent more than 20 per cent of the number of families, the committee came to the conclusion that the number of families which deserve supply coupons should not be more than 450,000 families.

The committee's report pointed out that total subsidies, including fodder, had cost the treasury over JD 400 million between 1989 and 1994 with the highest portion going to the bread subsidy which, on the average accounted for more than JD 40 million annually. The committee noted that during the said period, consumer prices of subsidised products have remained stable except for limited increases in the prices of bread, rice and milk in early 1993. Prices have continued to rise, especially in 1995, with the price of wheat increasing by 70 per cent, from \$119 per tonne to \$204 per tonne, the price of sugar going up by 30 per cent, from \$340 per tonne to \$441 per tonne and the price of rice rising by 58 per cent, from \$280 per tonne to \$442 per tonne. Milk prices shot up also by 52 per cent, from \$23 a tonne to \$35, reflecting a cost price of JD 2,070 per pack delivered at the warehouses of the Ministry of Supply taking into consideration a \$20 per tonne in additional handling costs. Similarly, the cost prices of wheat, sugar and rice have increased to JD 0.157, JD 0.338 and JD 0.323 respectively.

Additionally, the committee found that between 1989 and 1994 produce prices increased by 90 per cent above 1986 prices whereas the average increase in per capita income of the gross domestic product at the market price was only 20 per cent during the same period.

As such the report recommended the following:

- 1) Reducing the number of beneficiaries from food subsidies
- 2) Reconsidering the free prices for sugar, rice and milk to be no less than the cost price
- 3) Raising salaries to all employees in line with higher cost of living
- 4) Reconsidering the poverty level to ensure adequate help to the poor
- 5) Expanding the services and outlets of the civil consumer corporation
- 6) Reducing the number of middlemen in the selling process and encouraging parallel produce markets
- 7) Continue subsidising fodder
- 8) Taking the necessary measures to curb excessive profits by some merchant, to review price periodically and to tighten quality controls (Al Rai + Al Dustour).

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in cooperation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 11/18/95	Tokyo Close 14/15/95
Sterling Pound	1.5715	1.5751**
Deutsche Mark	1.2347	1.2383
Swiss Franc	1.1945	1.1951**
French Franc	4.9505	4.9510**
Japanese Yen	93.90	93.70
European Currency Unit	1.3010	1.3052**

Source: Reuters. ** London opening 12:00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit

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COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	PERCENTAGE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.T.O.	320	68800	214.500	215.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1300	5875	4.510	4.530
BANK OF JORDAN	22225	73368	3.400	3.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4850	6088	4.350	4.250
THE HOUSING BANK	3150	17775	5.850	5.840
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	766	2153	2.620	2.620
JORDAN GULF BANK	1750	1594	1.160	1.130
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1378	5581	4.080	4.050
MOHAWD BANK FOR INVESTMENT	15600	16420	1.050	1.060
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2100	3378	1.620	1.620
BANKS SECTOR	56771	214218	INDEX NUMBER: 178.77	CHANGE: +0.177
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	200	4801	4.200	4.200
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1800	4891	2.700	2.700
INSURANCE SECTOR	2000	5711	INDEX NUMBER: 133.33	CHANGE: +0.233
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	16467	27086	1.640	1.650
VEHICLE OWNERS FEDERATION	200	1320	6.600	6.600
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	600	3336	5.550	5.550
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1650	3581	2.170	2.170
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1200	1409	1.180	1.180
HACHIMURY SOUP, RESTING & MAINTENANCE	5500	3465	2.650	2.630
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMER HOTELS	800	2009	2.510	2.540
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1825	5895	3.210	3.230
ARAB PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	763	955	1.260	1.270
SERVICES SECTOR	29042	49051	INDEX NUMBER: 127.64	CHANGE: +0.334
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	35133	128851	3.650	3.670
JORDAN FERTILISER KINGS	780	2265	3.030	3.020
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	310	3004	9.700	9.670
WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	10250	15888	1.580	1.550
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	447	1490	3.310	3.310
THE JORDAN WOODEN WELLS & CHEMICALS	4875	7.500	7.500	7.500
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4015	20472	5.060	5.120
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	3300	19793	5.900	6.000
JORDAN DAIRY	800	1200	2.350	2.400
ARAB AL DAVA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1800	12105	7.850	7.850
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	6500	3028	4.440	4.470
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	4000	4000	1.390	1.390
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	49000	1.000	1.000	1.000
INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1250	1605	2.190	2.140
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	714	549	4.800	4.850
ARAB CENTER FOR FIBRE & CHEMICALS	800	1105	2.200	2.200
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	10690	35538	3.280	3.250
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1857	3982	2.080	2.100
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	15150	27175	1.740	1.780
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	1700	2380	1.400	1.400
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	1000	2120	2.140	2.120
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	144798	336617	INDEX NUMBER: 127.98	CHANGE: +0.257
GRAND TOTAL	232609	405598	INDEX NUMBER: 155.55	CHANGE: +0.207

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VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET: 39692

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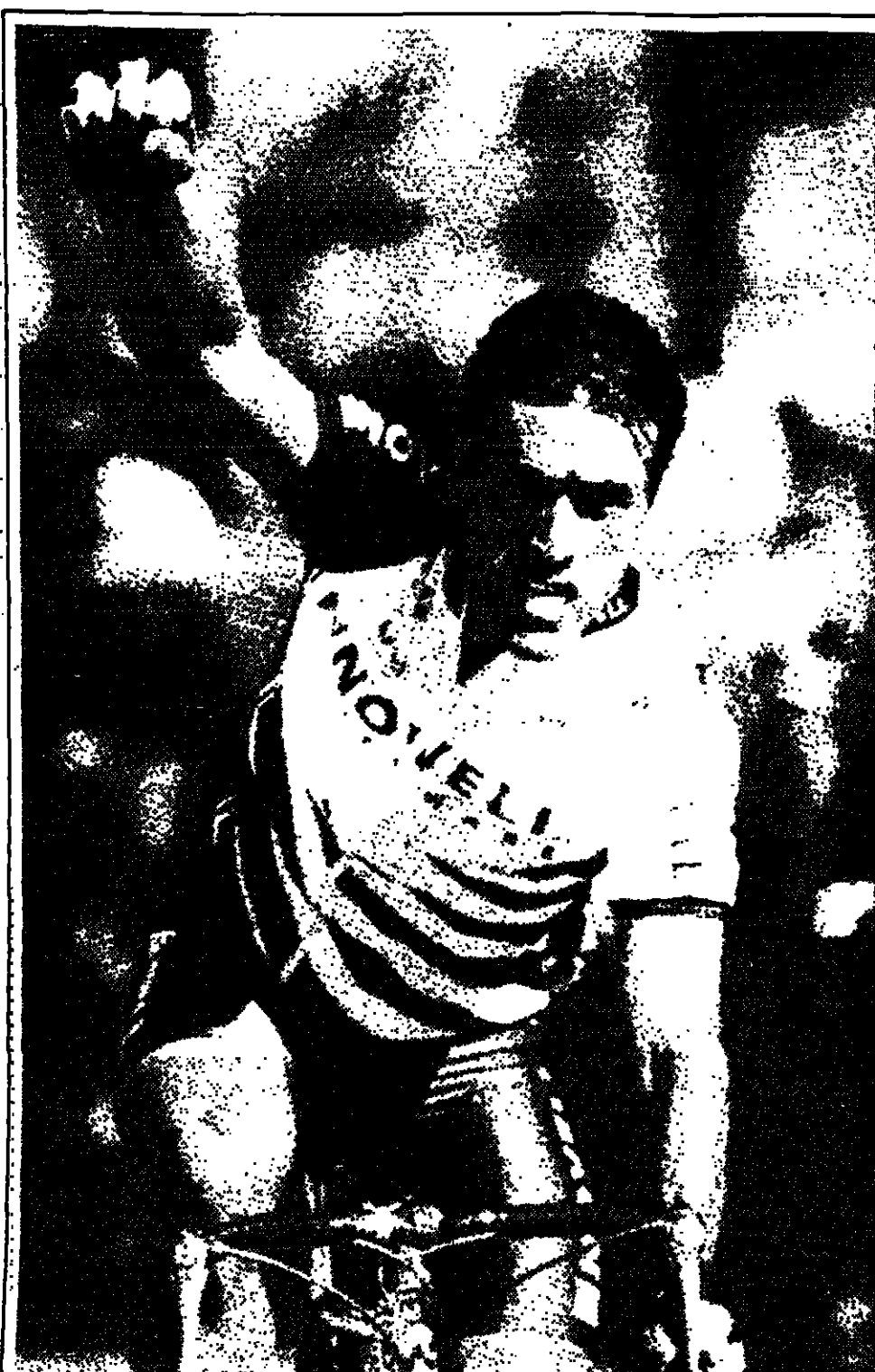
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.360616	Canadian dollar
	1.448494	Deutsche marks
	1.622232	Dutch guilders
	1.207080	Swiss francs
	29.7276	Belgian francs
	4.982575	French francs
	1621.42.4	Italian lire
	95.3242	Japanese yen
	7.253030	Swedish crowns
	6.373080	Norwegian crowns
	5.612575	Danish crowns

One Sterling	1.571020	U.S. dollar
One ounce of gold	\$384.60/384.90	U.S. dollars



Uzbek sprinter Djamilidina Abdoujapbarov line of the 1995 Tour de France earlier last raises his arm in victory as he crosses the finish line. (AFP photo)

Rominger leads standings

PARIS (AFP) — American Lance Armstrong moves up two places to 11 in the world International Cycling Union rankings published on Monday after his victory in the San Sebastian Classic on Saturday.

Tony Rominger of Switzerland retains number one spot.

Anglo-Italian Maximilian Sciandri, winner of the Leeds International Classic race earlier this month leads 14 places to 17.

1. Tony Rominger (Swi) 3242 points

2. Laurent Jalabert (Fra) 2158

3. Miguel Indurain (Spa) 1953

4. Alex Zülle (Swi) 1543

5. Claudio Chiappucci (Ita) 1463

6. Johan Museeuw (Bel) 1310

7. Evgeni Berzin (Rus) 1262

8. Maurizio Fondriest (Ita) 1122

9. Francesco Casagrande (Ita) 1060

10. Pascal Richard (Swi) 960

11. Lance Armstrong (USA) 956

12. Andrei Tchmil (Rus) 947

13. Richard Virenque (Fra) 849

14. Maximilian Sciandri (Ita) 811

15. Gianluca Bortolami (Ita) 803

16. Viatcheslav Ekinov (Rus) 762

17. Stefano Della Santa (Ita) 715

18. Chris Boardman (GB) 689

19. Rolf Sorensen (Den) 686

20. Piotr Ugrumov (Rus) 682

21. Giorgio Furlan (Ita) 680

22. Djamilidina Abdoujapbarov (Uzb) 674

23. Francesco Frattini (Ita) 669

24. Wilfried Nelissen (Bel) 667

25. Bjarne Riis (Den) 664

26. Mario Cipollini (Ita) 662

27. Laurent Dufranc (Swi) 654

28. Davide Rebellin (Ita) 642

29. Alberto Elli (Ita) 640

30. Gianni Bugno (Ita) 632

Van Almsick back on golden trail

VIENNA (R) — Franziska Van Almsick, winner of six gold medals at the last European Swimming Championships, could trump that with a record seven this time.

The 17-year-old German, who claimed her first world record and world title in the 200 metres freestyle in Rome last September, has entered four individual freestyle events and three relays at the championships, which begin with diving and synchronised swimming on Thursday.

Van Almsick won the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle and shared in three German relay triumphs at the last European Championships in Sheffield, England, two years ago to match the tally achieved in 1985 by West German Michael Gross.

She was denied a seventh gold in the 100 metres butterfly in which she had to settle for the silver.

This time she has dropped the butterfly but added the 400 freestyle to her repertoire, though she faces a

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH

BREAK THAT TABLET!

None of these bridge maxims we learned when we started playing the game are etched in stone. They are designed to cover generalities, and in the majority of cases they are useful guidelines. If there is one that is almost inviolable, it's "never trump your partner's ace." H.G. Webster's cartoons perfectly captured the vicious reactions that followed when this unpalatable adage was committed to print.

The auction is noteworthy in two respects. Since North had made a takeout double originally, the free raise to two spades showed the equivalent of a better-than-minimum opening bid. As a result, South did not pass around, but made a full-blooded raise to game.

Sitting East was the late Helen Sobel, the greatest woman player

the game has known. Her partner led the king of hearts and, when that won, continued with the ace.

Most defenders would routinely discard on this trick. The best West could do would be to continue with a heart, but declarer would ruff high in dummy, cash two high trumps, then discard two clubs on high diamonds. Thereafter, declarer could crossruff a diamond and heart, concede a club shift, Two club tricks put a quick end to declarer's aspirations.

Unfortunately, for South, Mrs. Sobel was no ordinary defender. It was obvious that if the contract were to be defeated, the defenders would need tricks in clubs. So East ignored the axiom and ruffed her partner's ace of hearts as an entry for a club shift. Two club tricks put a quick end to declarer's aspirations.

World champions set for lucrative Zurich pay day

ZURICH (R) — World championship gold medalists won a luxury German car for their performances in Gothenburg but the business of making serious money from track and field takes place here on Wednesday.

Some 25 gold medalists from the Gothenburg championships that ended on Sunday will gather in the Swiss financial centre for the Weltklasse meeting, the most lucrative event in the sport with a \$5 million budget.

While winning a world title is largely prestige, Zurich provides athletes with the big money which will help pay the mortgage in the next year while they devote all their time to preparing for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

The meeting is the richest of the golden four series

which gives out a total of 20 one-kilo gold bars to athletes who win specific events in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin. The prize is worth around \$250,000.

In addition to appearance money, there are also cash prizes of up to \$7,000 for winners at each meeting. In Zurich, a world record is worth \$50,000 plus one kilo of gold.

But the meeting is not all about money. Winning in Zurich has a great deal of sporting significance. There are some fascinating showdowns on the programme which have psychological importance in the year before the Olympics.

France's world 400 metres champion Marie-Jose Percec takes on new world holder Kim Batten of the United

States in the women's 400 metres hurdles. Percec did not run the hurdles event at the world championships because of injury.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola, disqualified from the women's 800 metres in Sweden for running out of lane, takes on Cuban world champion Ana Fidelia Quirot over two laps.

Britain's high hurdler Colin Jackson, who shared the 20 gold bars with American long jumper Mike Powell last year, may be fit to face world champion Allen Johnson of the United States, the discipline's new star. Jackson did not defend his 110 metres hurdles title in Sweden due to injury.

Britain's Olympic 100 metres champion Linford

Christie is also hoping for a shot at the new world champion Donovan Bailey of Canada if he can recover from injury in time.

The 35-year-old Christie, whose hopes of defending his world title were dashed by a hamstring problem, has travelled to Zurich for treatment with a sports doctor. He wants to compete again in Europe this summer before retiring at the end of the season.

"I'm going to see the doctor in Zurich and we will assess things... I have done some light training and will not decide until the last moment... things are beginning to look up," he said.

The meeting effectively crams the line-ups from nine days of world championship

finals into a few hours, a perfect package for television which pays for the prizes. The meeting will be broadcast in 23 countries.

Algeria's world 1,500 metres champion Noureddine Morceli may have a chance of setting a world best for the men's mile if the weather conditions are good.

The same applies to Kenyan 3,000 metres steeplechaser Moses Kiptanui, who bids to improve on his own world record of eight minutes 2.08 seconds which he ran here in 1992.

Michael Johnson, who completed an historic 200 and 400 metres double in Gothenburg, runs in the one-lap race. Whenever the powerful American steps onto a track, a world record could go whatever the financial reward.

Bowed China sets sights on Atlanta

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese athletics chiefs and athletes pick up the pieces after the nation flopped at the World Championships in Gothenburg.

The all-conquering Chinese, who grabbed eight medals and four titles, second only to the USA, at Stuttgart in 1993 could manage just one medal in Sweden when Huang Zhihong picked up silver in the women's shot put.

It was China's worst result since it started contesting the world championships in Helsinki in 1983.

Before the Gothenburg championships, the official line pushed by Chinese athletics chiefs was that they were no more than a training outfit for rising stars ahead of the more important Atlanta Olympics in 1996.

The post-championship si-

lence was perhaps more telling on Monday, the Chinese athletics federation declined to answer telephone calls from the international media.

The domestic press gave low-key coverage to Gothenburg, but showed some dents in the Olympic confidence.

"We were not expecting excellent results, we were conscious of our weaknesses, but this defeat was really too much," Han Yongnian, head of the Chinese delegation was reported as saying.

"Our athletes lacked experience and committed too many technical errors."

Han also warned coaches must shoulder some of the blame. "The preparation of some of the athletes, the javelin throwers for example, was not good enough. They were ready too early in the season."

"The walkers, too, were ill-prepared after their World Cup victory in April."

Days before the end of the championships national trainer Kan Fuling set alarm bells sounding.

"China is ill-adapted to top level competition because our athletes lack the technical and psychological training they must have to compete internationally," Kan was reported as saying.

Kan also warned that Chinese athletes needed more regular exposure to the international elite.

But China may have a new weapon to unleash in Atlanta.

Confined to barracks, super-coach Ma Junren's divided army sat out Gothenburg.

Two years ago in Stuttgart, Ma's stars Wang Junxia, Qu Yunxia and Liu Dong

reigned supreme — winning the 1,500m, 3,000m and 10,000m — and China became an overnight world athletics power.

After their well-publicised split over what Ma did with the prize money from Stuttgart and other contests, Ma's new runners in Dalian and Wang and her gang will be bitter rivals for places on the plane to Atlanta.

Though Ma still has Qu Yunxia, the 1993 world 3,000m champion, little is known about his new army of young athletes.

In Shenyang, Wang, world record holder over 3,000m and 10,000 has her own group of runners, including Liu Dong, the 1,500m gold medal winner in Stuttgart who was thrown out of Ma's team for wanting a boyfriend and long hair.

Wang says she trains but she admits not with the same discipline as under Ma's dictatorial regime. That is one reason why she flopped so badly at the national championships this year and did not get a place in the Gothenburg squad.

She wants to launch her own athletics school but retains ambitions of winning an Olympic medal, the only one she has not got in her collection.

Ma has also made Atlanta his target. He did not enter his new athletes in the national championships saying they were not ready.

Few even know their names, but Ma promises they will be competitive for the Olympics. He has thrown down the gauntlet.

The world must wait and see if Gothenburg was a temporary halt in China's reign.

Who said what at the World Championships

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — Selection of quotations from participants at World Athletics Championships which finished here on Sunday.

* "I was born a winner. I'm a champion. I was born to run. A lot of people don't want me to win, but they will be disappointed." Former world champion Linford Christie just before finishing sixth, hampered by injury, in the 100m.

* "I'm here to talk about athletics." Christie after it was revealed he had become a grandfather.

* "I can't become more famous than I already am. I have nothing to win and everything to lose." Christie before the 100m final again.

* "There's no magical formula." Britain's Jonathan Edwards after breaking the triple jump world record twice in his first two jumps before taking gold.

* "I think training for the heptathlon has been good for my long jump." Germany's 1993 champion Heike Drechsler before failing to reach the last eight in the final.

* "My big goal is Atlanta. If I win there, maybe I will learn to drive." Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie after winning a Mercedes for his 10,000m victory.

* "It was a personal disaster for me. I have apologised to the athletes." Competition director Carl-Gustav Tollmar after admitting the women's marathon course was 400m short, thus annulling the times.

* "I wasn't surprised that he broke the record again. If you had seen his face after the first jump, you knew it wasn't all he had in him. It looked so easy — that was what was amazing about it." Deposed triple jump champion Mike Powell on Jonathan Edwards' two world records in his first two jumps in the final.

* "I think if I had got a normal start I would have won." Russian sprinter Irina Privalova after starting 0.1 secs slower than Gwen Torrence in the 100m final before

losing by 0.11.

* "Twenty years ago, 35-year-old sprinters were unheard of. Carl and Linford would have been back home watching the athletics on television." United States Track and Field (USATF) spokesman Pete Cava on the demise of Carl Lewis and Linford Christie.

* "I will go on for ever." Sergey Bubka before his campaign for a fifth consecutive pole vault crown.

* "I will continue to cycle to training." Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan-born Dane, after winning the 800m title and a car to boot.

* "I didn't celebrate. I didn't have any dreams and I didn't have any beers." Double-chasing Michael Johnson after winning the 400m title.

* "My secrets? I don't know — maybe ladies." Mexican marathon man Dionicio Ceron trying to explain the reason behind his success.

* "I clearly beat them. I know it in my heart. The person who win now can't enjoy that. I can't let it ruin my 100m gold medal."

* "American Gwen Torrence, the 100m winner, after being stripped of the 200m title for stepping out of her lane."

* "She cheated. She ran about two metres shorter than everybody else and she ran in somebody else's lane." Jamaican Merle Ottey after being awarded the gold. I don't know if she did it on purpose."

* "I think I'll need a lot of wisdom now because there will be a lot of temptations and snares that success will bring, that might take me off the track of what I really want to do — which is to glorify God with my life, and to be a good husband and to be a good father." Jonathan Edwards, Britain's world triple champion and world record holder.

* "I've had a good time at Gothenburg." Michael Johnson, after taking an unprecedented 200/400m double winner.

* "I think at some point in the next few years I'll take a year and just devote myself totally to the 100m." Johnson on his future.

* "She cheated. She ran about two metres shorter than everybody else and she ran in somebody else's lane." Merlene Ottey on Gwen Torrence's disqualification which handed the Jamaican the gold medal.

* "I'm very disturbed that Merlene would make such a comment. Not as a competitor but as a mother. I've always tried to instil in my little boy that you don't have to cheat to get anything." Torrence on Ottey's accusation.

* "Parents have to practise what they preach, that's what I've always believed. I'm afraid to call my little boy because I don't want to tell him that someone said his mother cheated to win."

* "A fearful Torrence on the implications of Ottey's comment."

* "I work full-time, eight hours a day as a marketing manager for the Bahamas government. I hope they are listening to this interview and that they'll give me a year off with pay so that I can prepare for 1996." Pauline Davis of the Bahamas, 400m silver medalist.

* "No more questions about Ben Johnson." Donovan Bailey, Canada's new 100m world champion.

* "I'm studying to be an electronics engineer. I put wires in my legs." Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan turned Dane, reveals the secret of his 800m gold.

* "When I'm here, I'm representing my country — not a tribe. On the track, I'm not a Hutu, not a Tutsi, I am a Burundian." — Arthemon Hatungimana, Burundi's 800m silver medalist, on why he would not reveal his tribal roots.

* "I think it's his ability not to settle for second place. The good old Jamaican attitude, which of course I have as well, coming from there."

Bailey on the reason behind the success of Linford Christie, Britain's Jamaican-born Olympic champion.

* "They don't understand athletics and they don't understand the pole vault. With me having done 6m at Sestriere, if someone wins a meet with a 5.80m they will ask 'what's the deal? what's wrong?'" Olkert Brits, the South African pole vaulter, on the high expectations of South African fans.

* "It's not like running. I'm not Michael Johnson or Carl Lewis. I'm just pole vaulting." Sergey Bubka on the reasons for his longevity at the top after winning a fifth world title.

* "If the world record belonged to someone else, I could do, say, 6.20m. It would be different. Sometimes it's tough to be alone." Bubka on the problem of having no real competition.

* "I want her not to compete in the heptathlon. If she does, I'm going home and I won't coach her anymore." Bobby Kersee's ultimatum to his wife Jackie Joyner-Kersey before the American athlete bowed out of her speciality discipline.

* "We don't plan it like that. In the last lap, whoever is strong can go for it." Moses Kiptanui, with a third 3,000m steeplechase world title, denying that Kenya's pre-race team tactics went as far as deciding who would win.

* "My federation said before the championships that I would get the same car as the winner if I finished in the medals." Saudi Arabia's Sa'ad Shaddad Al-Asmari on why he wasn't disappointed at coming third in the 3,000m steeplechase and missing out on the winner's Mercedes Benz.

* "If I don't win, it'll be because I made a technical mistake." Mike Marsh, the 200m Olympic champion, speaking before the 100m final.

* "I made a mistake." Marsh afterwards.

* "It took willpower, sacrifice and determination to get back here. But if I hadn't been able to run at the level I had before the accident, I would not have come back at all." Cuba's Ana Fidelia Quirot, badly scarred but competing at the top again after nearly being burned to death in a domestic incident in January 1993.

* "Look. I've still got the same laughing eyes. I'm still the same woman." Quirot again.

* "It's not something I worry about. I'm ready to race them. I was disappointed I never got a chance to race against them after Stuttgart because I don't think they're at the same level." Sonia O'Sullivan, the first Irishwoman to win a world title, on the Chinese runners who left her behind at the last world championships.

* "Pedroso's a nice guy. He doesn't speak much English and I don't speak much Spanish, so there is a language barrier. But we see in each other's eyes that we're friends." Mike Powell, American long jump world record holder on Cuba's new world champion and would-be world record holder Ivan Pedroso.

* "We have the same technique. The only difference is that I have a better take-off and I'm younger — so I don't take it so seriously." Pedroso on Powell.

* "From the baton exchanges we have done over the past week, everything looks very good. I think that the USA are going to have the best exchanges they've ever had. It'll be a little surprise for the rest of the world." Jon Drummond on the U.S. men's 4x100m relay team, 24 hours before the event.

* "Experience is about making a mistake and today I learned something." Drummond after failing to hand the baton over to Theo McCall.

* "I put my hand back, it never came. The rest is history." McCall.

Kenya's ex-coach blames successors for poor show

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya's former chief athletics coach Mike Kosgei blamed the current coaches and officials on Monday for the country's poor showing at the World Championships.

"Poor tactics and bad administration caused the debacle," said Kosgei who was sacked amid controversy in May. "The coaches accompanying the team are wholly to blame for putting unnecessary pressure on these fine athletes."

"I am surprised the coaches allowed some

athletes to go to Europe for meetings so close to the championships instead of training at home, where they would keep a close watch."

Kenya, competing without many of their big names, won only two gold medals at the Gothenburg World Championships which ended on Sunday.

"Team members were not told to take the 800 semis seriously," added Kosgei. "They were told to reserve strength for finals, which of course you do not get to unless you win the semi."

Ironically, the 800 metres

gold went to Kenyan-Born Wilson Kipketer, now competing for Denmark.

"In a major championship it is not each athlete on his or her own. It is the team. Everyone must aim at that goal, winning for the team. It is that concept the team forgot," said Kosgei.

Kosgei was considered the most successful long-distance coach in the world following a decade of world cross country success but was dismissed for criticising the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA).

Kenyan newspapers over-

whelmingly agreed with Kosgei's assessment of the championships.

"Such is the history of maladministration in Kenyan athletics, what is needed now is an immediate, wide-ranging investigation that will pinpoint just what is going wrong," said the East African newspaper.

The East African Standard said in an editorial: "Kenya's golden days, it seems, have come to a tarnished end. Gothenburg has clearly shown that what the Kenyan contingent lacked was man-

agement.

"The priority now must be to shake up the existing administration and make Kenya once more competitive. That may well mean replacing the current incumbent with those who have a track record that measures up to the size of this nation's record and its potential."

The daily Nation said Kenya's relay runners had denied the country a medal in the 4x400 metres when they turned up late following an argument over who should run the anchor leg.

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Sports

Wheaton, Pioline ousted from RCA tourney

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Two of the six seeds in action on the first day of the \$1.04 million RCA Championships, 11th-seeded American David Wheaton and 16th-seeded Cedric Pioline of France, were first-round casualties on Monday.

The 55th-ranked Wheaton was a victim of too many unforced errors in his 7-6 (8-6) 6-4 loss to 36th-ranked Renzo Furlan of Italy. Furlan, who was 50th-ranked last week, moved up in the rankings because of a quarter-final showing at the ATP championship.

"I am playing very well and am very happy for what I did last week," Furlan said. "I think I am in good shape."

The 44th-ranked Pioline fell to 150th-ranked wildcard entry Tim Henman of Britain 6-7 (5-7) 6-3 7-6 (7-2).

Four seeds moved into the second round Monday — 10th-seeded Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden, 12th-seeded Bernd Karbacher of Germany, 14th-seeded Guy Forget of France and 15th-seeded Brett Steven of New Zealand.

The top eight seeds, led by second-ranked Pete Sampras, seventh-ranked Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, ninth-ranked Wayne Ferreira of South Africa and 13th-ranked Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, all received first-round byes.

The first set of the Wheaton-Pioline match was a dead heat and went the distance. There were four early minibreaks, but the players were nip-and-tuck until 6-6 in the tiebreaker. Furlan won the set when Wheaton netted a backhand on the final point.

The only service break in the match came in the last game. Furlan capitalised on his third match point with a winning backhand crosscourt return.



David Wheaton

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"He played pretty consistently and I made a ton of unforced errors," Wheaton admitted, calling attention to his 33 errors. "That was the story of the match."

Pioline, a finalist at the 1993 U.S. Open and a quarter-finalist at this year's Wimbledon, couldn't handle the heat wave that is blanketing the Midwest.

"It was very hot and I felt like I couldn't move like normal," Pioline said. "I was slower and my opponent played good."

Henman successfully broke Pioline's serve on all six opportunities — the sixth and eighth games of the first set, the fifth, seventh, and ninth games of the second set, and the second game of the third set.

Pioline managed to break Henman's serve on four of nine opportunities.

"It was a bonus to get a wildcard here and I was very happy to take the opportunity," Henman said. "Once I got my chances, I was able to take them."

Finland are strongest up front, boasting Ari Litmanen, European Cup winners Ajax's leading scorer, and English Premiership newcomers Bolton Wanderers striker Mixu Paatelainen. However, Russia are unbeaten thus far in one of the weakest groups and are the top scorers with 18 goals.

France, meanwhile, will want to beat the resurgent Poles in Group 1 to ensure they remain on course for the finals. They have failed to qualify for the last two World Cups and their disappointing performance in Sweden at the last European championships reflected a decline from their great team from the 80s.

That team won the 1984 European Championship thanks to an exuberant defence marshalled by Maxime Bossis and a midfield that ranks as one of the greatest the world has ever seen. Pint-sized Alain Giresse, the little swerving skills of Jean Tigana, the forcefulness and heart of Luis Fernandez and the vision of Michel Platini made it a championships to remember.

Though the French still possess quality players such as Eric Cantona and Newcastle's David Ginola, the whole has

European Soccer Championships Scotland and France require wins

PARIS (AFP) — The European league season may barely be under way but international football returns with a vengeance this week as Scotland and France join the ranks of teams needing a home win to boost their hopes of reaching the European Soccer Championship finals in England next year.

Scotland lie third in Group B behind surprise packages Finland and favourites Russia. They entertain Greece, who started strongly, belying their embarrassing 1994 World Cup finals performance, but have since toppled from the qualifying positions. They gained a suspect 1-0 win over Scotland last year but even with their players on a \$30,000 win bonus and their manager under pressure to come up with an improved performance, Scotland should prevail.

Scotland will be without targetman Duncan Ferguson who has withdrawn injured while Rangers goalkeeper Andy Goram has put his club's European Cup match a week later above his country's hopes.

Coach Craig Brown has veterans Jim Leighton and Ally McCoist to replace Goram and Ferguson respectively. Leighton should definitely start while McCoist, only recently returned from a spate of injuries, will probably start on the bench.

A Scotland win and a draw between Finland and Russia in Scandinavia would be an enormous boost for their chances of qualifying for a second successive championships.

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Though the French still possess quality players such as Eric Cantona and Newcastle's David Ginola, the whole has

never added up to the sum of their parts.

They have only scored six goals in six games, four of those against Slovakia, and are fighting with Poland and their World Cup nemesis Israel for second place as the Romanians are seven points clear.

The same night the two bottom placed teams Azerbaijan and Slovakia meet with the former seeking their first point. So expect an 11 man defence against an 11 man attack.

Defending European champions Denmark have failed to build on their success of 1992, losing out on World Cup qualification by a single goal. This campaign has been disappointing and with Spain looking a shoo in for first spot, the Danes must beat Armenia in Group 2 convincingly to improve their goal difference over major rivals Belgium.

Denmark will be hoping to reward their coach Richard Moller-Nielsen who retires next year with one last successful qualification.

Switzerland have continued to impress after their good World Cup last year and a win over a poor Iceland in Group 3 should ensure that they make the finals next year, although they have still to play Sweden away in September.

Their midfield bears a strong Bayern Munich influence with long-haired maestro Alain Sutter and new recruit Ciriaco Sforza providing a skilful and dangerous service to their front men. Sadly for Switzerland, one half of their strike force — German champions Borussia Dortmund's Stephane Chapuisat — is still out injured so much will rest on Adrian Knup.

The Republic of Ireland will be desperately hoping that miracles occur in the Baltic state of Latvia. In group 6 they take on Austria, who like Poland have appeared to wake up, and their 3-1 defeat of Jack Charlton's team in June places them rather than the faltering Irish in pole position.

Portugal, who suffered their only defeat in the group at Landsdowne Road, should prove that was a minor blip and thrash little Liechtenstein to further enhance the belief that they, along with Croatia, will be the surprise packages in the finals next year.

Norway play the Czech Republic at home in Group 5 and a win would see the ever improving Scandinavians qualify. The Czechs, though in a tight tussle with the Dutch for the second spot, will want to take at least a point to place added pressure on the men from Tulip alley.

Estonia and Lithuania fight out the battle of the Baltics in Group 4 with the Lithuanians odds on to defeat the Estonians who are pointless thus far.

Washington advances at Volvo International

NEW HAVEN (AP) — Malivai Washington used powerful serves and pinpoint baseline play to beat Andrei Chesnokov 6-3, 6-1 in an opening-round match Monday in the Volvo International.

Washington, seeded 12th, got his second straight victory over Chesnokov, who was one of the highest ranked non-seeded players in the tournament. Washington prevailed on clay earlier this year in Germany.

The hardcourt of the Volvo has been kind to Washington in the past. He reached the finals in 1992 and the quarterfinals last year. Chesnokov's solid baseline game kept the right-handed Washington at bay for most of the match, not allowing him to rush the net. Instead, he attacked from the service line.

"I've been working on my serve. I've always felt that when I'm serving good, things are going to go well for me," Washington said.

He fired six aces, the last two in the final game and one of the shortest of the match. The last two aces flew by the ailing Chesnokov at 115 and 117 mph.

"When you can get some free points on your serve, it makes things a lot easier," said the 26-year-old Floridian.

Chesnokov won his only game of the second set by prevailing in a seven-deuce game that included long volleys and a deft display of ball placement from Washington that even had the Russian applauding.

Washington's second round match will be against either Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela or Adrian Panait of Romania.

In the other match involving a seed, No. 10 Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands beat Andrei Olhovskiy 7-6 (7-2), 6-3. Haarhuis will meet either Jim Grabb or Byron Black in the second round.

Haarhuis broke serve in the second game of the second set, then held serve in the third game after facing two break points.

Olhovskiy finally got a service break in the seventh game only to give it back in the eighth, allowing Haarhuis to serve for the match.

In another notable match, 1990 Volvo champion Derrick Rostagno, who has played only one tournament since undergoing 18 months of rehabilitation for an elbow injury, beat Michael Joyce 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

"I'm just as motivated as I always was," said Rostagno.



Malivai Washington

who last played in the Lipton Challenge in March. "I know that I've won a lot of matches on that court, and if I just play my game I can get through a few matches."

The top eight seeds in the field, which features six of the top 11 players in the world, including Andre Agassi and defending champion Boris Becker, received first-round byes.

Before the opening round began, tournament officials announced that Pilot Pen Corp. of America will replace Volvo cars of North America as title sponsor.

Volvo decided to end its 23-year partnership with the tournament, the longest running in tennis in North America, as part of a strategy to focus more on regional events.

Pilot Pen, a penmaker based in nearby Trumbull, signed a five-year contract, beginning in 1996. Neither company nor tournament officials would disclose the value of the deal.

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McCall cleared to fight Bruno

LONDON (AP) — WBC heavyweight champion Oliver McCall escaped a fine Monday for saying he hoped to inflict serious damage on Frank Bruno in their Sept. 2 title fight.

The British Boxing Board of Control cleared the American of any offense and said the fight could go ahead as scheduled at Wembley stadium.

McCall had threatened to fly home immediately if he received any fine. He did not appear at the hearing but was represented by promoter Frank Warren.

"The board listened to the representations made on his behalf and will not take any further action," BBC general secretary John Morris said. "It's accepted that the statements he made were open to misinterpretation."

We have accepted the explanation given on his behalf and he will be permitted to box here."

McCall made his controversial remarks shortly after arriving in England two weeks ago to prepare for the Bruno fight.

He had vowed "vengeance" against Bruno for the serious brain injuries suffered by his close friend Gerald McClellan in a WBC super-middleweight bout in London in February.

"I'll take him (Bruno) out and try to do for him what he (Benn) did to my friend Gerald," McCall was quoted as saying.

Some papers quoted McCall as saying he would turn Bruno into a "vegetable."

The next day, McCall claimed the remarks were

blown out of proportion and said he harbored no ill feelings toward Bruno. Last week, Bruno offered to pay any fine to ensure the fight goes ahead.

"McCall never said he was turning Frank Bruno into a vegetable, which was the back page lead seen in a few newspapers," Warren said.

Warren acknowledged that McCall did say he would do to Bruno what Benn did to McClellan.

"But what he meant to say

and what he went on to emphasise was that he was going to knock him out and not put him in hospital or turn him into a vegetable," the promoter said. "Unfortunately, that's what people wanted to read into it."

Meanwhile, the British board fined former WBO super-middleweight champion Chris Eubank 5,000 pounds (\$8,000) for comments about current champion Steve Collins, his opponent in a title rematch Sept. 9.

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Egyptian workers describe Libyan clampdown on them

AL SALOUM, Egypt (R) — Egyptian workers crossing out of Libya say they expect authorities to expel thousands more foreigners before a clampdown on illegal immigrants there ends.

Security officials at Al Saloum crossing point between Egypt and Libya, 700 kilometres west of Cairo, said on Monday that 3,000-3,500 Egyptian workers had been thrown out since Aug. 3. The flow continued this week, but at a slower rate, they said.

Officials and the expelled workers said the clampdown was concentrated on Libya's central region, which includes the cities of Sirte, Misratah and Zlitan.

An Arab diplomat based in Libya told Reuters he believed the Libyan decision was related to protests he said took place there in June.

Libyan authorities held Muslim militants responsible, and Egyptians and Sudanese were reportedly involved.

Ismael Khalaf, an engineer at a steel factory in Misratah, said the rumour among workers was that armed Libyan, Egyptian and Sudanese militants had been seized.

Hundreds of Palestinians were also expelled during the same period. They often re-

main stranded for days between the Egyptian-Libyan borders until they get the approval of both Israel and Egypt to be sent to the self-rule area of Gaza.

Inshirah, a Palestinian woman with six children, said she was stranded for three days. Palestinians are loaded in buses and taken directly to Gaza, nearly 1,000 kilometres away.

Egyptian workers said Libyan police raided their houses in early August and ordered them to leave within 48 hours.

Gamal Abdullah, 32, said he was taken from his house with others to the police station, and then to Al Kharouba square in Misratah where workers were loaded in buses to return to Egypt.

Mr. Abdullah added that many Egyptian workers had also returned home of their own accord when news of the clampdown spread.

Egyptian officials led by Manpower Minister Ahmad Al Anawi are in Libya to discuss the expelled workers' entitlements and to set a new framework for Egyptian workers in Libya.

There are no official figures for Egyptian workers in Libya, but Egyptian officials

put the number at nearly a million.

Following the opening of the border in 1992, Egyptians flocked to Libya to try their luck, many without contracts.

But border controls were reimposed last year to catch criminals and stop a flood of cheap Libyan goods into Egypt.

"The atmosphere is terrible and there is no work anymore," said Salah Soker, a carpenter expelled from Zlitan. "The arrests continue and more people are expected to return," he added.

Saeed Ahmad, another worker, said Libyans have also put up dozens of checkpoints on the road between the Egyptian border and Benghazi, the first major city on the road.

"We now feel that we are not wanted there. I wish conditions (in Egypt) improve so that we don't have to go through all this trouble," said Ibrahim Mohammad.

Brigadier Ibrahim Anwar, head of Al Saloum crossing, said at least 5,000 Egyptians and Libyans move daily between the two countries.

"This figure is very low. A year ago, the numbers were much higher, almost 15,000," he said.



NEW ARRIVALS: Two Palestinian policemen embrace as they enter the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing from Egypt on Tuesday to serve with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). About 170 Palestinian policemen trained in Algeria arrived Tuesday to join the PNA force (AFP photo)

Oklahoma blast suspects plead innocent in court

OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) — The two main suspects charged in the April bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma that killed 168 people and stunned the country pleaded innocent Tuesday.

Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were charged Friday on 11 federal anti-terrorism counts for the April 19 bombing — the deadliest terrorist act in the United States — and could face the death penalty.

"Sir, I pleaded not guilty," McVeigh, 28, told the judge quietly when asked for his plea.

"Your honour, I am innocent," Mr. Nichols, 40, told the magistrate at a separate hearing.

Lesser charges have been filed against a third friend, Michael Forter, who struck a deal to testify for the prosecution.

But after a long investigation of links to right-wing militias, authorities concluded they did not have enough evidence to charge others in the bombing.

One federal official has said privately that the attack was probably not the result of a vast right-wing conspiracy as some had believed but the

work of as many as five disgruntled individuals.

"The grand jury found probably cause to believe that there are others involved. We will continue the investigation," Prosecutor Joseph Hartzler said Friday.

Attorney General Janet Reno said last week in Washington that the government dropped charges of possession of destructive materials against James Nichols, the brother of Terry Nichols who was taken into custody in Michigan early in the investigation.

"We will pursue every lead based on the evidence. But we have charged everyone involved that we have evidence of at this point," Ms. Reno said.

The truck bombing at the Alfred Murrah federal building stunned the country when it emerged that the worst such attack in U.S. history was a home-grown conspiracy. It also fuelled speculation of a vast conspiracy against the government.

The indictment does not specify a motive, but officials have said Mr. McVeigh was angry over the 1993 cult disaster at Waco, Texas. The bombing took place on the

two-year anniversary of the assault and fire that ended in the deaths of at least 85 people.

The indictments, include 11 counts, including conspiracy to U.S. weapons of mass destruction, the use of a truck bomb to kill people, destroying federal property with loss of life and the murder of eight federal officials.

Mr. Forter, 26, pleaded guilty Thursday to charges that carry a maximum sentence of 23 years in prison, including concealing knowledge of the crime from police and several weapons charges.

Attorneys for both defendants have said they would push for separate trials in a venue away from Oklahoma City.

Mr. Veigh, a Gulf war veteran, and Mr. Nichols met in the army and formed a friendship based on a shared animosity of the federal government.

Mr. Veigh drove a rented truck loaded with a fertiliser and fuel oil bomb to Oklahoma City and detonated it outside the federal building, which was destroyed by the blast and later demolished, authorities allege.

Israel probes killing of PoWs

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's foreign ministry asked the army Tuesday to investigate a retired Israeli general's assertion that he and another officer executed 49 Egyptian prisoners of war (PoWs) during the 1956 Middle East war.

The foreign ministry's move came after Egypt demanded that Israel investigate the matter.

The killings were disclosed when Arye Biro, a retired Israeli general, told Israeli media earlier this month that he ordered the prisoners shot to death during the October 1956 campaign in Egypt's Sinai desert.

Mr. Biro, then a company commander, said he had received orders to move south in the Sinai but lacked troops to guard the prisoners, and feared that if he released them they would inform the Egyptian army of his movements.

Mr. Biro said he and a lieutenant carried out the executions.

A foreign ministry official said the army had been asked to look into the matter and inform the ministry of the results of its investigation.

Asked for his reaction to the foreign ministry request, Mr. Biro said "The army must decide what to do," his daughter Hanna told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said: "I prefer at this stage not to comment. I regret things that have been said so far, and I won't add anything to this."

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said he did not expect Israeli-Egyptian ties to be negatively affected by the affair, Israel's army radio said.

Egyptian newspapers quoted Foreign Minister Amr Musa as saying formal contacts were underway to try to establish whether the killings took place and who was responsible.

Malaysia rejects 24-hour TV

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia Tuesday rejected a request to broadcast round-the-clock television for fear Malaysians would stay up all night and neglect their work and family.

"Our surveys show that countries with round-the-clock transmission are beset with family problems and their people are less productive," Information Minister Mohamad Rahmat was quoted saying by Bernama news agency. He said in order for the country to attain industrialised nation status, Malaysians should be kept "fresh and productive."

The government did not want Malaysians to be "enslaved" by television sets, he said after rejecting an application by privately-run Sistem Berhad (TV3) for 24-hour transmission. Mr. Mohammad said the 1994 soccer World Cup season when local stations transmitted round-the-clock for a month, resulting in many people skipping work after staying up late.

Malaysia's two state-run channels and TV3 currently broadcast about 18 hours a day each while the newly-launched private station MetroVision is on air for six hours. Mr. Mohammad said TV addicts could instead look forward to the introduction of cable and satellite television next year, expected to be transmitted 24-hours.

Indonesia denies condom campaign promotes free sex

JAKARTA (R) — An Indonesian minister denied Tuesday allegations that the government had encouraged free sex by promoting condom use, saying that condoms were needed by those with AIDS. "It is not true that we have campaigned for the use of condoms to encourage people to go to brothels or to promote free sex. It is a sin," coordinating Minister of Welfare Azwar Anas told reporters. "What we are trying to do is to tell people affected by AIDS that they must protect their family from the disease. They must use condoms, because it is a very dangerous disease."

Indonesia's Council of Ulama (MUI), an influential group of Muslim scholars, has called for condoms to be sold only to married couples and not distributed freely to curb the spread of AIDS. "It would be better if the government only allowed dispensaries to sell condoms to married couples with prescriptions from general practitioners," Hassan Basri, the Mui Chairman, was quoted by Antara Aug. 3 as saying.

Fines against bikini clad tourists

ALASSIO, Italy (AFP) — Police have slapped around 20 fines on bikini clad tourists wandering around the resort town of Alassio, police sources said Monday. The fines of up to 50,000 lire (\$31) were handed out to people walking in a bikini, bare-chested or unshod in the resort near Savona, on the Ligurian coast, northern Italy. Since the start of the summer season the number of towns to have banned attire deemed inappropriate has increased.

Garbage-eating bears invade Canadian town

KENORA, Ontario (R) — Dozens of garbage-eating black bears are roaming the streets of this northwestern Ontario town in what officials call the busiest year for bear sightings, police said on Monday. "I think this is the worst year on record. We're lucky we haven't had an injury. It's bound to happen with the number of bears calls we're getting," police officer Greg Smith said. This town of 10,000 people, 135 miles (215 kilometres) east of Winnipeg, has reported 261 bear sightings this summer and an average of 28 a day last week, he said. "The worst is yet to come. September and October is when bears are looking for food," added Mr. Smith, who noted that the berry crop disappears in autumn. Kenora police have killed three black bears this summer, trapped another three and tranquilised 18 others in a futile bid to drive out the animals, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to free 100 Iraqi prisoners-of-war

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran said Tuesday it would free 100 Iraqi prisoners-of-war (PoWs) to mark the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Mohammad, state radio reported. Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also commander of its armed forces, took the decision to free the Iraqis for the anniversary which is celebrated Tuesday in Shiite Muslim Iran, Tehran Radio said. The prisoners issue is a key obstacle to the restoration of ties between Iran and Iraq following their 1980-1988 war. The two neighbours said in June they were ready to resolve the issue of PoWs and a delegation from the Iraqi Red Crescent travelled to Iran on June 18 to discuss it with Iranian officials. But both countries regularly accuse the other of blocking exchanges of prisoners. Baghdad claims to have released all Iranian prisoners, but Tehran insists at least 5,000 are still being held in Iraq.

U.S., Turkey sign anti-narcotics agreement

ANKARA (AFP) — The United States and Turkey signed Tuesday a \$370,000 agreement to fight drug trafficking, continuing a joint effort begun 15 years ago. The Narcotics Assistance Fund will go to provide training and equipment for the Turkish police, and to reinforce Turkish customs investigations and prevention of drug smuggling. The two countries have been working together to fight drug trafficking, and the United States has extended \$10 million toward that end since 1980, according to U.S. officials. The new agreement was signed by James Holmes, U.S. charge d'affaires here and Gun Gur from the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

Tehran accuses S. Arabia of refusing pilgrims

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran accused Saudi Arabia on Tuesday of refusing to allow Iranians to travel to the kingdom to conduct the "lesser pilgrimage," state radio reported. The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance said officials at the Saudi embassy in Tehran "refuse to respond to requests for visas" by Iranian pilgrims. Saudi Arabia allows 70,000 Iranians to make the main annual pilgrimage. In 1991 an accord also allowed Iran to send 3,000 pilgrims every month for the Umra or lesser pilgrimage.

Fighting reported in north Afghanistan

KABUL (AFP) — Fresh fighting has erupted between forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and rival Uzbek militia in northern Afghanistan, Kabul officials said Tuesday. There is fighting in Khuran-o-Sarbagh district in Samangan province, a Defence Ministry spokesman said, claiming some territorial "gains" against troops of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum. Analysts said an offensive by pro-Rabbani forces in Samangan was apparently aimed at seizing territory where they could cut off Dostum's supply line to his troops, who were attempting to capture the Salang Highway tunnel. The Uzbeks have been trying for the past four weeks to capture the strategic Salang Highway tunnel, located in the Hindu Kush Mountain range north of Kabul, and held by pro-Rabbani forces. The spokesman said that by engaging the rivals in Samangan, the government forces had been able to "weaken" Gen. Dostum's pressure on the Salang Tunnel. He said no change had occurred in the military situation in the Salang Tunnel battlefield.

12 Egyptians tried to burn down church

CAIRO (AFP) — Police arrested 12 villagers in north Egypt for trying to burn down a church in revenge for a quarrel between a Christian and a Muslim family over cattle that left seven dead and 18 injured, police said Tuesday. The 12 Muslims were arrested on Monday as they attempted to set fire to the church with gasoline in Demiana village, 158 kilometres north of Cairo, police said. Police, meanwhile, continued their investigations into the row in Demiana on Sunday between the family of a Muslim truck driver and that of a Christian doctor over the price of transporting cattle. Their argument turned into a shootout in which seven Christians were killed and 18 Muslims injured, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Settler opens fire at Palestinians

EL BIREH (AFP) — An Israeli settler fired off his pistol late Monday to scare off a Palestinian wedding party that was blocking his car near here, police said. The settler, a recent immigrant from the former Soviet Union, was driving with his family to the nearby settlement of Kochav Yaacov when he was blocked for almost two hours by a convoy of Palestinian vehicles slowing following a young married couple, police said. The settler and his son were detained by Israeli police for questioning. The spokesman for the council of settlements of Judea-Samaria and Gaza, Aharon Domb, said that the settler "was attacked with stones and a Palestinian car deliberately drove into the back of his vehicle several times." "Feeling in danger, he fired off his pistol, hitting one of the cars," Mr. Domb said in statement. The incident came a day after Jewish settlers shot dead a Palestinian during a protest over land rights on the West Bank.

U.N. plans impressive summit

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Over 100 heads of state and 41 prime ministers — including U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russia's Boris Yeltsin — will attend the U.N. "super summit" in October to mark the U.N.'s 50th anniversary.

The extraordinary session of the U.N. General Assembly which will serve as the culmination of 50th anniversary celebrations, will bring together representatives from all 185 member states.

A total of 104 heads of state, four vice-presidents, and 41 prime ministers have confirmed their participation, the U.N. press office said.

But two months before the session is to take place — Oct. 22 to 24 — the unprecedented meeting is turning out to be protocol headache for U.N. officials.

There are breakfasts, lunches and dinners as well as diplomatic receptions on the programme. There is also a concert by the New York Philharmonic.

To cap the summit, the leaders are supposed to adopt a "50th Anniversary Declaration," to mark the birth of the world body on Oct. 24, 1945.

Each of the leaders is to speak for five minutes during the six morning and evening sessions scheduled over the three days.

Mr. Clinton, as head of the host nation, will open the first morning session on Oct. 22 and Mr. Yeltsin and Cuban President Fidel Castro are also to speak that day.

French President Jacques Chirac as well as his South African counterpart Nelson Mandela, China's Jiang Zemin, and British Prime Minister John Major have also confirmed their participation, according to an initial U.N. list.

Among those who will not be making the scene are the "bad boys" of the United Nations Iraq President Saddam Hussein, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The three countries are under international sanctions.

The anniversary celebration will take place during the regular General Assembly session which officially kicks off Sept. 19.

Some diplomats here are concerned the anniversary celebration might overshadow the regular General Assembly debate session which is to begin Sept. 25 in which the heads of state normally participate.

Many of the leaders expected in New York for the October session might not be able to make the September session.

A series of events were held in June in San Francisco to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter.

Kurd anniversary raid kills Turkish colonel

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Kurdish rebels have killed a top gendarmerie officer in south-east Turkey despite tight security for the 11th anniversary of their separatist campaign, security officials said on Tuesday.

Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas killed Colonel Rıdvan Ozden, head of the paramilitary gendarmerie forces in Mardin province, on Monday night, the officials said.

The attack, in which two non-commissioned officers and a pro-government village guard also died, appeared to be an act of defiance to counter government charges the PKK is close to defeat.

"He is the highest-ranking member of the security forces killed in the southeast in the last year," said an official at the regional governor's office in the city of Diyarbakir.

He said security forces killed 13 guerrillas in Mardin in ensuing fighting which continued into Tuesday morning.

Security measures had been stepped up in the region in case of a dramatic attack by the rebels to mark the anniversary.

Police identity checks in Diyarbakir and controls of vehicles entering or leaving southeastern towns had been

increased in recent days. Soldiers' leave in the region had been postponed.

More than 17,500 people have died in the rebels' insurgency which was launched with the killing of two soldiers in separate attacks on Aug. 15, 1984.

Turkish political and military leaders refuse to negotiate with the rebels, whom they describe as "terrorists."

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has repeatedly said this year the security forces were on the brink of ending the rebellion. The guerrillas have continued attacks despite a big Turkish incursion meant to cripple key PKK bases in northern Iraq in the spring.

The PKK now has thousands of guerrillas in southeast Turkey and northern Iraq, thousands of members and sympathisers among Kurds in Europe and close links to a parliament-in-exile set up by Turkish Kurds in the Hague in April.

"The Kurdish revolution is now...the most serious international revolutionary movement," the Marxist PKK's leader, Abdullah Ocalan, said in an interview published in a pro-Kurdish daily on Tuesday to mark the anniversary.

FBI agent says reports changed in blast case trial

NEW YORK (R) — A federal explosives expert testifying in the bombing trial of Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and nine others said on Monday that he was told to change his reports in favour of the prosecution.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Agent Frederic Whitehurst said he disagreed with the FBI report prepared by the FBI that was to have been used by the government at the trial of four men accused in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre.

"There was a great deal of pressure put upon me to bias my interpretation," Mr. Whitehurst said in federal court in Manhattan. He said his superiors told him "not to provide alternative theories that could be used by the defence. I was told not to give the defence anything that could be used."

Mr. Whitehurst told the court that initial reports about the presence of urea nitrate were false. He said it so upset him that false testimony would be offered that he went to the bathroom, urinated into a beaker and went to extremes to demonstrate that false information was being offered.

Mr. Whitehurst said he formulated urea nitrate from his own urine and placed that sample with others taken from the bomb scene. He said the FBI technician failed to notice the difference between the samples.

Mr. Whitehurst said he was so upset at the "strong pressure" being put on him by FBI members that he wrote two memos to the inspector general about the matter.

Mr. Whitehurst, who holds a doctorate in chemistry from Duke University, was called as a defence witness by lawyers for Fares Khalafalla and Mohammad Saleh.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman and nine other men are charged with planning the World Trade Centre blast and plotting to bomb the United Nations and bridges and tunnels leading into New York. They are also accused of planning the 1990 murder of Jewish militant Rabbi Meir Kahane and conspiring to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak when he was visiting the United States.

"I was criticised openly and told I could hurt the prosecution case... that the prosecution was going to circumvent my testimony by having another expert testify," said Mr. Whitehurst.

U.S.: Iraqi defection could be significant

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein who defected to Jordan last week has called on Iraq's army to overthrow the regime. Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel Al Majid, former minister of industry and minerals and Iraq's director of military industrialisation, issued his call during a public news conference Aug. 12 in Amman.

State Department deputy spokesman David Johnson told questioners the press conference "confirms our view that the defection could be a significant development for Iraq, and it underscores the extent of Saddam's isolation within his own country."

Lieutenant Colonel Saddam Kamel Hassan Al Majid, who was in charge of Saddam Hussein's personal security detail, defected along with Gen. Hussein Kamel. Their wives are daughters of Saddam Hussein.

They all fled to Jordan along with their children and were granted asylum by King Hussein.

Asked if the U.S. sees Gen. Hussein Kamel as the leader of an Iraqi government in exile, the deputy spokesman replied: "It's not up to us to decide who should lead Iraq. We've made clear that we believe this episode highlights Saddam's isolation, but, beyond that, we don't have anything to say."

Mr. Johnson declined to discuss what types of contacts, if any, U.S. officials have had with the two Iraqi defectors. Asked about reports of a new purge, he said he was unaware of "any unusual activities" inside Iraq. "We're maintaining a rather vigilant attitude towards what is happening on the ground with respect to potential threats by Iraq against its neighbours," he noted.

The deputy spokesman was

also asked about an urgent invitation from Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz for United Nations inspectors to return to Iraq to receive information about Iraq's weapons programmes, which Mr. Aziz claimed had been withheld by Gen. Hussein Kamel.

"We believe that efforts by Iraq to hurry the inspection process are not acceptable," Mr. Johnson said. "We believe now is the time for sober consideration of the situation, not for the declaration of artificial deadlines for action."

He said the U.S. was in contact with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission, which has been charged with conducting inspections inside Iraq since the Gulf war. The United States is prepared to cooperate with Dr. Ekeus to ensure he is able to fully carry out his mission. Mr. Johnson said. The invitation "does high-

light the possibility of further Iraqi deception and the need to remain vigilant and ensure that Iraq has complied with all of the U.N. Security Council resolutions affecting it before sanctions are lifted," he said.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said he would "decline to get into specifics" when asked if the recent Iraqi defectors had requested asylum in the United States, but then added, "I am not aware of any request for asylum."

He said again information concerning the two military officers and their wives is being provided to Washington by the government of Jordan.

Mr. McCurry said again the defections reflect Saddam Hussein's shortcomings and "represent an unmasking of the truth — he is not capable of civil leadership of the people of Iraq."